

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8th, 2013
CHAIR LUCIEN GAUFF
VICE CHAIR JACLYN HOTARD

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Rudolph Soraparau Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, January 8th, 2013, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: None

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

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

COUNCIL - SELECTION OF OFFICERS

Councilman Perrilloux stated, *"I would like to nominate Councilwoman Hotard as Council Chair and Councilman Madere as the Vice-Chair."*

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to nominate Councilwoman Jaclyn Hotard as Council Chair and Councilman Lennix Madere as Council Vice-Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"I would like to nominate Councilwoman Cheryl Millet as Finance Chair and Councilman Art Smith as Finance Vice-Chair."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to nominate Councilwoman Cheryl Millet as Finance Chair and Councilman Art Smith as Finance Vice-Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"I would like to briefly thank my fellow council members for their vote of confidence and we will move right along."*

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes December 27th, 2012, Regular Meeting (**TABLE 12-11-12**) Councilman Wright - Appointment of Greg Loisel to the ZBA; Councilman Madere - Re-appointment of Branetta James to the ZBA;

Councilman Wilson - Re-appointment of Jacqueline Forest to the ZBA;
Natalie Robottom - Appointment of Tommy St. Martin to the Fire Civil
Service Board

MOTION: Councilman Smith moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes December 27th, 2012, Regular Meeting. The motion passed with 8 years and 1 abstaining (Perrilloux).

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to take the three items off of the table. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Gauff stated, *"I would like to recommend - Councilman Wright - Appointment of Greg Loisel to the ZBA - for a 1 year term; Councilman Madere - Re-appointment of Branetta James to the ZBA for a 1 year term; Councilman Wilson - Re-appointment of Jacqueline Forest to the ZBA for a 2 year term."*

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"Let me add this and we have talked about this the statute calls for staggered terms but technically even if you have a 1 year term you can reappoint that member, you can keep reappointing them and even if you have a 3 year member you can remove them it is not one of those boards where once they are appointed they cannot be removed so really the idea of saying we have a term at all is really mute."*

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to approve the amended consent agenda items as follows: Councilman Wright - Appointment of Greg Loisel to the ZBA - for a 1 year term; Councilman Madere - Re-appointment of Branetta James to the ZBA for a 1 year term; Councilman Wilson - Re-appointment of Jacqueline Forest to the ZBA for a 2 year term. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda item: Natalie Robottom - Appointment of Tommy St. Martin to the Fire Civil Service Board. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

The ordinances will be carried over to the next council meeting due to need for additional time for publication.

12-55 An ordinance granting final approval of Summerlin Lake Subdivision Phase 3, Section 1 and Re-subdivision of a Partition of a Parcel from Riverwood Subdivision into Lots herein designated as Lots 1-7 situated in Section 64, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZS-12-1038) (N. Robottom)

12-56 An ordinance granting approval of a Family Re-subdivision of Lot 2 into Lots 2-A, 2-B and 2-C Bonnet Carre, Crevasse Section 37, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZS-12-1053) (N. Robottom)

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

13-01 An ordinance to add the nomenclature "Felton Collins, Sr." to the existing N.W. 2nd & Railroad Ave. in Reserve. (L. Madere)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Councilman Wright stated, "Mrs. Cador, I need some clarification on the medical plan proposal. On the spread sheet we were given the renewal annual premium says \$341 and a 14% increase but the memo that was sent to us a little while ago says \$312 and a 4.39% renewal. I just need some clarification because the one that says renewal says \$341 which one are we going with?"

Stacey Cador stated, "We are going with alternate 1 with an annual premium at \$312,776.16."

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard abstaining.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Cheryl Millet - (Carry Over 12-27-12) Ruddock Well funding

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I apologize I wasn't here at the last meeting and the discussion regarding the funding for Ruddock Well and I know that you all went into some lengthy information on it and from my understanding the end result was that there was going to be like a 6 week come back and make a report to the council regarding that. My only concern is that during this 6 week period I am a little concerned that we can't be looking for funding sources during the same time that we are doing the study. We don't necessarily have to be spending the money but we can be searching for the sources of funding at the same time that you are getting your recommendation because if it takes 6 weeks to do that than you are going to go and search for the funding so now we are looking at even more time. So I would recommend or like to make a motion and hopefully my fellow council members will concur with me that we go ahead and have this done simultaneously that way we don't have to wait a little while longer. We can ask Mr. Martin for funding sources or direct administration to look for funding sources for the well should we decide to do that and I would like to make a motion in that affect."

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to direct administration to look for funding sources for the well at Ruddock. The motion passed unanimously.

Lennix Madere - (Carry Over 12-27-12) Abandoned House - E. 22nd Street

Councilman Madere stated, "I am really pleased with the progress seen on the house. It went down pretty fast once they started working on it but it wasn't in that great a shape anyways but they are doing a good

job as far as cleaning it up and I saw that administration said within the next week everything should be cleaned up in that particular area. While we are on the topic of abandoned houses also back to this house that I talked about a couple of weeks ago on 30th Street I have some pictures I went by and took of that house and at the time Ms. Sutherland said that there were 5 criteria's that were required in order for a house to be considered to be demolished and the pictures that I have this house not only meets but it surpasses all of those qualifications and that house has probably been abandoned for several years and I did some research on it and the last time that Code Enforcement officers did anything with it was just recently someone put in to have the grass cut. As far as contacting the individual the last attempt was 2010 and that house has been sitting there and has surpassed any possible criteria that we have, it meets the 5 plus 5 more and I have the pictures to back that up and where do we go from here when we have a house in that situation as far as meeting all the criteria and the last time we made any physical contact or reached out to these people was in 2010. Where do we stand and where do we go from here?"

Angelic Sutherland, Director of Planning & Zoning, stated, "Mr. Madere you had E. 22nd Street on the agenda so I wasn't aware we were discussing E. 30th Street in Reserve. I can speak on what you said about not reaching out to the owners since 2010. If a grass violation has been done recently then we did reach out to them at that point because that is contact. We have to make written contact so I know."

Councilman Madere stated, "I am speaking once you have reached out for an abandoned house as far as demolishing that home and there is no response or we didn't make any contact. Is there any way that we can get in contact with the local police authority to have something delivered to them to their address because it seems as though we have hit a brick wall and we don't go any further because this house like I said you mentioned 5 criteria's and I have pictures and I think there are 15, we could add 10 more things to that list and as far as rodents there are a lot of rodents, as far as falling down, it is falling down, open windows, there are open windows, high grass, snakes all the criteria is there and like I am saying the individuals or the people who put me in office are the ones who are complaining about this house and it is my job to represent them and try to get something done about this. Even though someone does not live in our district it is affecting the people who live down that street and who I represent. So I am not going to allow a brick wall to just stop. We have to continue until we get this resolved. Either they are going to fix it or we are going to remove it like we did on E. 22nd Street which was our property so we went on and did it but we have to find a way to get this accomplished because if not this house will just sit and sit and sit."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Councilman Madere the item that is on the agenda is for E. 22nd Street, what we can do is put the house on E. 30th Street on the agenda because it wasn't an advertised item it would be proper for us to discuss it publicly at this time but if you would like I can duly note the record to put E. 30th Street abandoned house so we can discuss it at the next meeting."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well next time we will do it but we will just talk about those houses in general not just that specific street."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Or you can just put abandoned houses and not list the addresses and we can cover them all."

Councilman Madere stated, "Good because there is more than one in that district and throughout the parish that fits this criteria so I don't want to limit it to just one because I think we need to solve the problem as a whole."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "You may want to list it as hazardous unsafe houses because we don't have abandoned in our codes."

Lennix Madere - (Carry Over 12-27-12) Drainage issues in District III

Councilman Madere stated, "This is appropriate for the weather that we are having out here tonight because I am pretty sure I am going to get some phone calls tomorrow and I think myself, Mr. Snyder and some other council members have pushed for what we would call a drainage department or we need to hire some temps so that we can have some individuals working on drainage every day because especially in District III and all the council members are very well aware of the problems we are having with drainage in their districts and I am very much aware of the problems in District III. I know we have this machine that blows out the culverts and I am more than sure and I have had several people call me after the last rain that we had and there is a lot of water sitting in yards and ditches and this one particular elderly lady called me and she was out there with a shovel trying to dig a trench to remove some of the water from around her house and I know these trucks that we have if we had a driver or someone who could man those trucks every day there is definitely enough culverts in my district to blow out every day to keep people busy and some of these trucks just sit they aren't used every day and mainly I think because we don't have any one that could do it every day."

Brian Nunes, Director of Roads & Bridges, stated, "We do have a permanent driver. There is only one truck that does that and we do have a driver on that truck every day."

Councilman Madere asked, "You only have one truck? Does he drive that truck every day to blow out culverts?"

Brian Nunes stated, "I can't say every day but most days he does. When we have work orders in the system that require that truck then he is on that truck full time."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay but I mean if there is no work order than he is not on that truck or not doing anything?"

Brian Nunes stated, "He works with the drainage department cleaning ditches but we may not have that truck out that day. If we don't have any calls for culverts he would be doing something else in the drainage department they may not be on that truck."

Councilman Madere asked, "So they are used strictly on work orders. So if someone calls it in you would get the address and go do it. You don't have anyone that goes down the streets and looks for the problems?"

Brian Nunes stated, "We do that as well but we operate primarily on the work order system but definitely during storms we have people ride around and make note of the problem areas and we take those areas down and we put them into the work order system to be addressed."

Councilman Madere asked, "Is there any way possible we can get someone to go into District III and maybe spend at least a week going down each street and marking the ones that need to be blown out because I know there are several down those streets that need to be blown out instead of waiting for someone to call me then I have to call a work order in. Is there any way possible that we can have someone just go down the streets in District III and check them and mark them off?"

Brian Nunes stated, "We can definitely do that especially with the rain events that we are having not only in District III but throughout the parish. We can go around and add them to the work order system that is not a problem."

Councilman Madere stated, "That is what I was concerned about and I know I spoke to Mrs. Robottom a few times we talked about funding for drainage and I know we are trying the best ways to get grant money and I know she is trying to get some grant money I think through the incident with the storm as far as drainage because 50% of the problems would be solved, not all of it but at least 50% would be solved if we could get these small culverts out like last week you all did a good job down 27th Street the one that was falling in and we replaced it but I think we need to have that done at every location and I know it is going to take some time and some money but I would like to know are we really actively pursuing this type of thing?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Yes we are constantly looking for grants that are available through our grants department. I don't know personally what is available right now but I know that Myra is always looking for grants."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well maybe I need to just talk with administration about maybe some other things besides grants. I don't want to say them now because I don't know how viable or if that is possible but I appreciate it and like I said if you can get someone to check out the district."

Brian Nunes stated, "We will start traveling around the parish during the rain storm but we also do encourage all residents if they notice a problem that we might miss or might not see it they can always call it into the Public Works Department and we will add it to the system and address it as soon as we can."

Councilman Madere asked, "Are we going to be actively trying to hire some temps or get some more people in that drainage department because you know hurricane season is coming again."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We actually have the benefit, as we did following Katrina, WIA is funding temporary workers for our parish out of disaster funding. They are submitting the names of people and they will be paying them to assist us so at this point we have been interviewing and going through the process of assessing the people that

they are forwarding to us and most of them are in the laborer position, they do have some clerical there may be as many as 16 more that they will be sending us. So at this point that is something that is available to us to assist and I know Brian and I think recreation as well has been working with Stacey to try to interview and place them in the departments to provide some assistance."

Councilman Madere stated, "I just want to make sure that Brian and Verdel know even though I am questioning them a lot about drainage they have responded each and every time I went to them. So I am not saying that they aren't trying but I think they need more help."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just want to make a comment in light of all that has happened recently with Isaac and with everything else especially in the back part of District VII and behind District VI and absolutely along District V all of that corridor back there those areas were really inundated with a lot of water and it sat for a few days so I know those areas probably need to be cleared out or blown out or something to let that water be able to drain so I don't know if y'all are addressing that or if you have plans to do that or not."

Brian Nunes stated, "We have actually started that already. We have a contract with a company that is in the parish right now and they are taking video cameras and going through our culverts, making notes of where there are blockages and what not. They have finished River Forest. They are in Cambridge right now and they are going to move through all the areas that have been impacted through Riverlands, Foxwood and LaPlace Park. They are going to document where the blockages are and where all the debris is and then that same company is going to come back with a cleaning truck and just blow out everything. That is all in the plans to get it done."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "And is this going to have to come back to the council for approval or is this just part of the emergency?"

Brian Nunes stated, "It is."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So are they doing it as they find them? In other words like you said they are doing the camera and they just did River Forest and they found the blocked areas but they are not going to blow those yet until they have finished all the assessment or can they blow those out while they move onto the next one?"

Brian Nunes stated, "They can start the cleaning right now. We wanted the camera crew out in front because it takes a little more time to video tape everything so we wanted to give a buffer and let the TV people go first and start identifying things and then come back with a cleaning truck afterwards."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So to answer my question are we going to wait until the cameras are finished?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Not until they are finished we are just giving them a buffer to get ahead but we are going to come back with the cleaning truck afterwards. What we want to do also is we want to make sure that everything we do is proper with the FEMA guidelines and documented."

Councilman Snyder stated, "When we talked about drainage, which is one of my pet peeves and I did talk to Mr. Brian today and the first thing is the work order system. It may not be friendly to people who are not computer savvy. It took me a half an hour last night to get one work order in. I had trouble with the test you had to go through just to put it in. Now another thing, we have someone in Cambridge that is taking pictures of our drainage system and I had no idea of it."

Brian Nunes stated, "They did River Forest first and they started in Cambridge late last week."

Councilman Snyder asked, "What are they doing? Are they just going into catch basins and looking at all of them or just certain ones?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Actually while they are going through they are helping us map our drainage system because we don't have an accurate map. They are going through every catch basin. They are popping the tops off and taking a gps shot of it and if they can get their video camera in there if it is not all blocked up and full of water than they put the camera in and run it down the entire length of the culvert and video the entire thing so that we can see what is going on in there and see if and where it is blocked. There are times when they will pop the top and they just can't get in because there is sheetrock in there and water backed up so in those cases I have just asked them to take a digital photo of that so that we have some record of blockage and the camera can't get in so they move on but wherever the camera can get in they do it is a little robotic camera that just drives down the culvert and if they can't get in they just take a picture and they note the gps location."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Tell me this today I was in my district and district V and they were doing some drainage cleaning and do we look at an area when we are looking at these work orders and say okay we are working in this area today like a specific spot or do we just jump around like one day in LaPlace, then go to Reserve or to Milesville. I don't know how you work that but like I said I put in a work order last night and they were there today to clean one street and this was right around the corner. I was wondering when we get ready to do the drainage to we look at the system and say okay we have five in Riverlands or do they just spot when the work order comes up?"

Brian Nunes stated, "We do try to work smarter rather than harder. So if we have a bunch in the same area we will concentrate in that area. Now this afternoon we had some problems with the truck but it should be back on the road but if we are taking care of a small spot we try to take care of the area right there while we are there instead of just jumping around at times that does happen based on priority and severity but that is not normal."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well your guys did a good job because it was full of mud and all kind of stuff."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Mr. Nunes you say that we work from the work order system from drainage. Why can't we just put a generic work order in and be proactive about it instead of reactive and put a generic work order in just to clean the parish and blow the culverts

out from one end to the other daily under a generic work order?"

Brian Nunes stated, "We can do that and that is normally our intent. There is only one truck so it is hard to cover the entire parish but we do try to go through and blow out a lot of areas. We don't want to waste our time blowing out a clean culvert so that is where the work order system comes in handy but if we do not have a lot of work orders we do send out the trucks to different sections to blow out different areas."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Okay are we looking, I think there is a project but I am not sure on Belle Terre by the Post Office there is something plugged up right there. Are we looking at that with the camera and drainage to the canal behind there and Sugar Ridge, Foxwood and all the way out? Are we looking at that?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Brian is really covering a lot of it. We touched on a number of things. I think we discussed during the last time and I wanted to go back Mr. Snyder you had expressed some concerns about the areas in Cambridge that flooded and at that point we told you there was an existing contract that was going to be used to camera the areas and that was started. At the last meeting we talked about that and the reason we are using a camera in the areas that were impacted is FEMA wants to see the documentation to justify them paying for us to clean them. So that is why that systematic approach is being used even though there were some things that were problematic before the storm but that is what's happening there. On your concern about Belle Terre that has been a problem. It is in DOTD's budget they are designing a project. They have come out numerous times. It floods very dangerously you can't see the water at night. There have been accidents on Belle Terre because the water is so high and people can't see it. They try to put high water signs but there is a problem. So that is one of DOTD's projects because it is a state highway they are going to be working on the drainage problems that exist primarily right in front by the Port and the Post Office that whole little area and it floods very quickly so they are working on that."

Councilman Gauff stated, "My concern is the culverts at the Railroad still. We had addressed that or we had gotten the Railroad out to come by and take a look. I know they were supposedly working with us. I was just wondering if there is an update or if you have heard anything or should I put it on the agenda for another time."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We actually have a meeting scheduled with Mr. Denning to discuss several things and that is one of them. We have not made the progress that we hoped for. I know historically it is very difficult working with the Railroad but our system right now is not working in terms of clearing those culverts and now that we have somebody who is here coming to sit with us we are going to try to address a systematic approach to making sure that it remains clear who has the authority to clear it."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I know I sent Mr. Nunes a work order there are rails along Garyville, there are several areas where there is work that they have done but they didn't do the housekeeping to pick up the mess that they have made so if you don't mind those are some of the things that I would like addressed also. There are some crossings that

I have written up. The one on Apricot I have had written up for over a year and a half now that still have spikes sticking up through them so the railroad is one of my sore spots they just seem to do what they want to do."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We are continuing to try to work with them but they are difficult."

Councilman Smith stated, "Mr. Madere you say it would fix 50% of the problem in District III if you came on the West Bank for over a year you still wouldn't be finished with drainage. We have discussed this 2 million dollar drainage study that was done many years back. I don't know if you all have looked at this thing but I have looked at it several times and it names the problem areas. Have you guys looked at this and used this to help fix those problems because it is on there. We need to utilize this study. It shows us all of the areas before the storm that really needed the help and they all seem to be the same areas. Have you done anything to start working on what this study pointed out as the problem areas? They have been identified we just need to utilize the study more."

Brian Nunes stated, "We do use it. We implemented some of the recommendations already. We have put additional pumps in Reserve. We are working towards everything in there."

Councilman Snyder asked, "When they are finished looking through the pipes and everything will they be able to print us out a map or give us something electronically to show us how the drainage is because I have been trying to get the elevation in Cambridge or where everything drains and how does it drain and I can't find that map at all and that is what I am looking for."

Brian Nunes stated, "That is one of the reasons that I asked them to pop every catch basin and shoot it all with a gps. We may not get an exact elevation because they are not a survey group but we will get a map and it will show where the culverts are draining."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Are you meeting with both railroads?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We need to speak with both but our meeting is with Mr. Denning but we do have problems with both and we have a problem with the one on the West Bank as well and I did get some additional contacts from Mr. Smith."

Cheryl Millet - Update on Belle Terre exit ramp lighting

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I see that we have made some progress with the four lights that were always out, now we are down to three. Do we have any progress on getting these three permanently lit?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually there was somebody out there today and we did contact DOTD. They have not finalized the project. They said they are still doing some clean up and repair work but they were not aware that they weren't all functioning and they have put in a work order to send their contractor back out before accepting the project. So I did see someone going out earlier at the lights during the day. We will keep you posted."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "We have spoken about this many times and you are telling me that they are unaware of it but I know that we had notified them months ago that the four light weren't working. So I know they should have been aware of it and that is why I put it on the agenda because it has been almost four months now dealing with the same lights that are not working. I would like to see the project completed and have them move their stuff and go on their way but these four lights still remain a problem."

Natalie Robottom stated, "They have never all worked. They never came on. It is not like they went off. So they fixed more than started working when the project started but they never fixed all of them but they are working on that and they have removed all of their equipment it is all gone all of the stuff around the interstate is gone but the three lights were not working and there were two employees out there today."

Lennix Madere - Update on the Council on Aging building

Councilman Madere stated, "I spoke to Mr. Vincent and am very pleased with the information I received. I also spoke with a few individuals who had called me and everything is basically completed. I know they only have a few punch list items left but it is 99% finished and the people are very happy about that and I plan to visit it in the near future."

Natalie Robottom stated, "The Council on Aging Building re-opened on Friday, December 28th and the hours of operation are from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Residents who need transportation to the facility can call 985-479-0272 or 985-479-0273. The contractor was still onsite performing minor touch-up and cleaning, but work was completed January 2."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I have been over there and thank you administration and Daron he was always on top of it or whenever I called him or when I did he said we are open. So I passed by there and talked to them. As you said there are a few little knick-knack things but they are in there. So thank you all."

Councilman Madere stated, "I also want to thank Daron. He was a great help."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just want to remind all the residents that the Council on Aging is open to all of our residents and please take advantage of it. They provide a hot lunch daily and transportation and many services for the elderly population. All it takes is a call. All of our seniors should take advantage of this wonderful center."

Lennix Madere - Update on the Boogie Center in Cornland

Councilman Madere stated, "I spoke with Mrs. Lemon about the plans that she has for the Boogie Center and recently I took a visit of the center. It is a pretty nice building and I expressed to Mr. Vincent that this has nothing to do with the program that you are running but basically some of the concerns I had were for the building itself and this is the way I feel if the building is owned by the parish, it is

our building I expect it to look like it belongs to us. It isn't just the Boogie Center. It is any building that we take on or have ownership of. I think it should show a representation of St. John Parish and the building needs some cosmetic work on the outside. I spoke to Mr. Vincent about some of the problems and he agreed it will take a little time to get some of this stuff done but as far as the program that you are implementing I wouldn't mind if you would share some of that because I think that the program is good but if we are going to put a good program in that building we should make sure that the building is 100% up to the quality that represents the parish on the inside, outside and surrounding area."

Rhonda Lemon, Director of Human Services, stated, "The hours of operation for the Boogie Center are 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The 2013 HHS budget includes a line item for additional programs for the center to include computer literacy, life skills classes, and recreational type activities. These programs are in the planning stage as the budget was just recently approved by the Council."

Art Smith - Code Enforcement

Councilman Smith stated, "I am trying to figure out what we are going to do with our Code Enforcement officers."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Currently there are 4 vehicles available for Code Enforcement (CE) and CE officers are patrolling their areas. They were assigned desk duty for one week in mid-December when the Sheriff cancelled the Code Enforcement Agreement. During that time, CE officers assisted with research on vacant or possibly vacant properties associated with Hurricane Isaac and also completed paperwork for violations in process. Administration is scheduled to meet with the Sheriff tomorrow to discuss the code enforcement program, shared responsibilities and training issues. CE officers will remain on a month to month contract and are expected to perform their job duties until a final path forward is determined. CE officers are no longer commissioned; therefore deputies will be called to the scene to issue citations as needed."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Can you please keep us all informed on your meeting and the outcome with the Sheriff and how close we are coming to a solution?"

Councilman Wilson stated, "I don't take the insurance plan and I don't go on any trips or plan on going on any. They can use my money to buy a vehicle and there are other parts of the budget that we can use to buy these vehicles."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I think that this was some of the guidelines that we asked Ms. Sutherland to put in the application whenever she did interview or start looking for applicants. We wanted someone that could handle the paperwork and write reports so that the reports could be used to go to court with or whatever so there are certain guidelines and I guess things that we are looking for."

Art Smith - West Bank Farmer's Market - guaranteed opening by April 1st, 2013

Councilman Smith stated, "That has been a thorn in my side since last January and I know that this started before me and the harvest season is about to start again and I am just looking for something that could tell the residents yes it is going to be open or if we can get something moving because we have been procrastinating about this thing and we keep going back and forth and I understand this is government funding and everything else but this has been over a year."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Part of the problem is we don't follow the process. We purchased things before we received the grant then we had to go back. We started processing without approval from the funding source. So a lot of that delayed us, which is why we spend a lot of time trying to follow the guidelines so you are right we had to undo quite a bit of what was done and the parish ended up paying for more than we anticipated because we proceeded outside the guidelines of the funding source. Our team has met with USDA the engineers have reviewed the plans inspected are being drafted by Murray Architects and that representative is here. We received electronic copies of the comments from the USDA engineer with 13 additional requirements asking them to amend the plans and I know they received those. I actually got the hard copies today. So as soon as they complete their revisions and the requirements by USDA and submit those plans back to them and we receive their approval and they were fairly minor requirements and some additional things tied to the funding then we will be able to move forward with the bid process. Again we didn't follow the process required of that grant and actually it wasn't until spring until the USDA representative met with all of us to make sure that we all knew what those requirements were and we messed up. There were miss-steps along the way that lost us money and we are not doing that again. We are going to follow the process. We are going to get the approval. We are going to follow the steps that they are telling us are required for us to get the \$100,000.00 towards the Farmer's Market."

Mike Tabb, Murray Architects Representative, stated, "They had 13 additional requirements a lot of them were little details that they wanted to see in the contract document. They wanted to make sure that we had the contract time put in the specifications. We are following their guidelines. Their front end documents which did not have that in their documents so we had to add an additional page for that to specify the contract time in the specifications. They wanted to have some additional information about ADA signage as well as the parking lot. We showed the ADA parking in the parking lot, where it is going to be located but we didn't show exactly where the sign was going to be placed and we didn't show an elevation of it and they wanted to see it and a couple of other items like that. So we got those comments on Friday of last week and we are delivering the revised drawing with the specifications to Daron Cooper tomorrow."

Councilman Smith stated, "I guess this process has been going on for over a year and I have been checking with Mrs. Buckles and as I understood it you guys were the hold up because you wouldn't respond in a timely fashion and if I am going to spend my money my job is just as important as anybody else's in the world. I know you are a large company and you have other jobs."

Mike Tabb stated, "Well we are not a large firm and I was going to ask if you could produce that document to me so that I can defend myself

because I can guarantee we were not the ones holding up anything."

Natalie Robottom stated, "They were not. As a matter of fact we didn't even hire them or contract with them until recently because USDA required it. So all of what we had been doing before in house was unacceptable. They required that we either have an architect or an engineer on the project and that wasn't originally the case which is why we had to come to the council and issue a task order to Murray to come on. So they were not the hold up in this project and they have been working with us and as I said the requirements came electronically on Friday. I only received the documents today and they have already made the changes. So they are cooperative and again I'm not sure who applied for and said we had the grant or why we went out and spent money before receiving it before meeting with them but all of that had to be squashed because we had to follow USDA guidelines and the first thing was to procure an architect on the project and then he had to meet with their engineers. They are very detailed. They had to come out and make a visit to not just the grounds but all our public buildings to make sure that they were ADA compliant restrooms and the signage was there. They have requirements that we don't typically have to follow and then they come out during the project and inspect it and then years after it is finished to make sure that we are using it the way it is intended. So there are a lot of strings attached to their money that weren't necessarily relayed to us initially and I think we actually had a meeting and met the representative in Baton Rouge and she went through all the details of what the grant required and the first thing was that we needed to hire an architect or an engineer."

Councilman Smith stated, "I am looking for closure to this project. We have spent more money on this project than we are getting from the government."

Natalie Robottom stated, "No. We actually purchased a building before we received the grant so now it isn't reimbursable by the grant however it can be repurposed and used for storage so it isn't a lost but we have to wait until we receive the grant until we could actually purchase the building and it was a \$30,000.00 building but again all miss-steps without having the guidance from the funding source."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "So not following the guidelines, did we jeopardize ourselves with the money from the grant and will this costs us any extra out of pocket on our part?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "No we are good. Once we met with them we have been following the rules and that is why we are delayed. There may be some out of pocket but we are committed to this project as well. Originally we didn't know DOTD was going to require us to put a fence, so we had to put a fence. We are committed to the plan and the project. We want to see it through. We don't want to pass up the money that they are giving us. We did spend \$30,000.00 and we are going to use that in another department so it isn't a waste but we may need to end up putting a few more dollars to make sure that it is compliant with their recommendations but we anticipate a good project."

Councilman Gauff asked, "What guidelines were we following?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "None."

Councilman Gauff asked, "When did we decide to put the fence? When did we decide the size of the bathrooms or the parking? What were we following before this?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We were following in house direction with the intentions of receiving the USDA grant which you know the meeting I attended and pulled everyone together was like when we applied for it did we not know what the guidelines were and it was applied for prior to many of us being here and once we received the letter we met with USDA and basically had to start from scratch in terms of everything that we were deciding and of course when we went to get the permit from DOTD it was their property. I think we had to enter into an agreement with them for use of their property and in it they indicated that you need to fence off the area before you can start working. So we did that but none of those details had been worked out. It was just an idea or a concept we are going to do this here without any guidelines or stipulations or details without a detailed plan on how we were actually going to accomplish it."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I guess I just remember us walking it out, talking about setbacks, talking about was this all maybe parish guide lines? What guide lines were we talking about as far as the bathrooms and the wash basins that we would have to have water there. I guess I am just thinking that we had to have been following some type of guide lines to get there now if it was the proper guide lines are not it just seems like we would have been following something."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Well we knew what we wanted. We know what farmer's markets have. We had attended others but if we are not funded through the USDA we could do it anyway we wanted but once you accept \$99,000.00 from the USDA you have to follow their guidelines. So there weren't any restrictions on what we could have done had we not received this funding. If the parish wanted to pay for it all we still wouldn't have these issues however we are utilizing federal funds and when you choose to do that you have to follow their guidelines and I think possibly some of the people working on it didn't quite understand that and they were just moving along thinking that they could supplement the money from the USDA but they had some other things in mind. The entire project has to be approved by them. They don't just give us money and say do what you want."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I feel the same way Mr. Smith does it seems like this has been going on forever and we keep thinking okay the deadline is coming or the open date is coming soon and we are just not getting it so at least I am glad to hear that it sounds like we are on the right page now and are following the right guidelines and hopefully we can get some sort of time line to let us know a date that we will be there."

Natalie Robottom stated, "As soon as the plans are approved we will have to come back to you to get approval to bid it. It is the same process that we do with any project. We have to submit out plans, they approve it and then we come back and bid the job."

Councilman Gauff stated, "Okay I am going to get like Mr. Smith. Will it be 6 months or 9 months what are we looking at?"

Mike Tabb stated, "You are looking at a minimum of 6 months."

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jobe' Boucvalt - Authorization to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish Council, Sheriff's Office and Fire Departments relative to the Communications District

Jobe' Boucvalt, Director of Emergency Preparedness, stated, "Approval of this agreement assures that all parties involved with the new radio system will pay their percentage share of the total amount billed by the Ascension Parish Communications district. The billing will be based on the total number of two-way radios allocated to each party."

MOTION: Councilman Wilson moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish Council, Sheriff's Office and Fire Departments relative to the Communications District. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good Afternoon. I'd like to wish all of you and our residents a Happy New Year! Congratulations to the Riverside Academy Rebel Basketball Team on winning the 3rd Annual Sugar Bowl Classic held at Riverside Academy this past weekend. The Public Works Department is currently picking up Christmas Trees throughout the Parish. Residents in need of pick-up are asked to contact the Public Works Department at 985-652-4815. The Council on Aging building is has re-opened in Reserve. Residents can visit the center from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Residents who need a ride to the center should call 985-479-0272 or 985-479-0273. The Parks and Recreation Department is seeking teams for a 5 on 5 Double Elimination Adult Basketball Tournament beginning Friday, January 10 through Sunday, January 12, 2013. Participants must be 21 years and older. Registration is \$150.00 per team and the first 8 teams to register will play. Contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 985-652-9569 for more information and to register or visit sjbparish.com. Rising Star Baptist Church is offering a free grant writing workshop on Friday, January 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 620 Cardinal Street in LaPlace. For more information please call 504-831-1671. The Cambridge Homeowners Association meeting will be held on Saturday, January 12, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the Arcuri Center. Residents in the Cambridge and English Colony Subdivisions are encouraged to attend this meeting. The St. John Parish Sheriff's Office is hosting the Fallen Four Run this Sunday, January 13. The 1 mile run/walk will begin at 8:00 a.m. and the 5K will begin at 9:00 p.m. Registration forms can be picked up at the St. John Parish Sheriff's Office or at stjohnsheriff.org. Registration fee is \$20 before January 4 and \$25 after. Participants 18 and under are \$15. All proceeds will be distributed to the families of Brandon Neilson, Jeremy Triche, Jason Triche, and Scott Boyington. The St. John the Baptist Parish Long Term Recovery Group (SJBPA LTRG) is partnering with World Renew, a faith-

based organization that specializes in disaster response, to conduct an assessment of long-term recovery needs in St. John Parish following Hurricane Isaac. World Renew volunteers will be working door-to-door in various affected neighborhoods between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 22 through Thursday, January 31, 2013 (not including Saturday) to address the needs of residents in response to damage sustained from Hurricane Isaac and to inform residents of available resources. This is one of many efforts being made to provide residents with information and access to resources to help them return to their homes and to assist the parish in identifying unmet and long-term needs. The World Renew teams will wear green shirts with the World Renew logo and identification tags, as well as provide a letter of introduction from the SJBP LTRG. It has also been announced that Eight Days of Hope, a nonprofit, faith-based organization committed to rebuilding homes affected by natural disasters, will lead a major rebuilding effort of almost 100 homes affected by Hurricane Isaac in St. John Parish from March 9 to March 16, 2013. Approximately 1500 skilled volunteers from across the nation are expected to descend on the parish to provide the rebuilding assistance. Homes will be selected following case management conducted by various volunteer agencies. The St. John Parish Long Term Recovery Group is also working closely with Eight Days of Hope to ensure a successful project. We thank the nonprofit organization for choosing St. John the Baptist Parish and we look forward to the project kicking off in March! Anyone interested in volunteering with "Eight Days of Hope" when they visit in March can register now at <http://www.eightdaysofhope.com/>. "Eight Days of Hope" is an all-volunteer organization located in Tupelo, Mississippi. For more information on "Eight Days of Hope" visit www.eightdaysofhope.com. Residents still in need of volunteer assistance should contact the Volunteer Reception Center at 985-359-0254 or visit them Monday through Saturday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at 1933 West Airline Hwy in LaPlace, or email a representative at isaacassistance@sjbparish.com with your name, address, and phone number. Anyone interested in volunteering in the community should also contact the volunteer Reception Center at 985-359-1024 or email isaacassistance@sjbparish.com."

COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Smith stated, "I just want to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and I hope we all have a very prosperous 2013 and get a lot of projects accomplished here in the parish."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Mrs. Robottom please we need to get Historic Main Street in Garyville done. The road is beyond terrible. Also W. 7th Street and both of those are smaller projects. It is only like 1,000 feet but it is in really bad shape."

Councilman Madere stated, "I want to make everyone aware of the MLK march on the 21st of January and I just want to inspire people to come out and participate in this march, I participated in it last year and I think it could be much bigger. So please come out and take part. Also in regards to the ordinance to rename N.W. 2nd Street for Mr. Collins but in doing that I realized that particular street has some tremendous educators and I really didn't think about that until I came up with the idea and after speaking to some people and I just have to mention them

Mr. Leroy Williams, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Billy Houston and Mrs. Annette Houston. All of these people are educators and spent much of their time educating individuals in the community and also Mrs. Eloise Joseph who also gave a lot of her time to making things better in St. John Parish so I just wanted to mention those names. I also want to give my sympathy to individuals who lost loved ones this past year. To the Perrilloux and Shallow family that lost David Perrilloux over the weekend also Mrs. Jenny Cook her funeral is Thursday at OLG. Also I will be having a meeting in District III every three months so that people can bring their concerns to me and our first meeting will be January 17th at 6:00 PM at the Reserve Library and the last thing I want to mention Mrs. Jackson asked me to look into something for her and I would like to let her know that I am still looking into it and I will get back with her this week. I also received a phone call this week and I don't think I need to have permission to do this the family of Mr. Larry Snyder would like to wish him a very Happy Birthday. His birthday was Monday, I received that phone call and that was one I said I would be more than happy to oblige. So Happy Birthday from your entire family."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I would just like to express my condolences to the Cook and Perrilloux family. I would also like to say Happy Birthday to my daughter who is going to be 15 this weekend. Happy Birthday and I love you."

Councilman Wright stated, "I just want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and I look forward to 2013."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I have a message for the people that live in areas where there are many trees. We complain about our drainage system plugging up but we need to do some work ourselves and help out a little bit, especially in areas that have a lot of trees. Every now and then go outside and clean out your drain. I was in a community today and I saw where the water just piled up a lot with the leaves and it couldn't drain. We need to help ourselves a little bit, please do not sweep leaves into the drainage it is hurting every body's drainage. I still would like that flag. I have been asking for a flag at the Arcuri Center where we have court at. The American Flag and the state flag we have a pole there all we need is the flag and the chain. I would sure like to see that over there especially in the building that we have court at. Thank you to the parish president for announcing our meeting for the Cambridge/Colony Association and I give my condolences to the Cook family and I don't know who told you to do that Mr. Madere but thank you."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "First off I would like to thank my fellow councilmen for their vote of confidence in electing the new officers this year and I look forward to working with all of you. Also to kind of echo on what Mr. Snyder said we are expecting a lot of rain in the next few days so please if you do have a drain in front of your house please go clean it out don't wait for public works to go and clean it out. There is a lot we can do to be proactive as a resident rather than waiting for someone else to do it for us. Finally I would like to ask the administration to kind of check into because this year we were not part of any Christmas tree recycling program so if we can work on that for next year so that we can actually put these trees to some kind of good use in restoring our coast lines because we could do a lot to

protect St. John."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I would like to extend my condolences also to the Cook, Perrilloux and Shallow family. I would also like to say Happy Birthday to my daughter who turns 8 before the next meeting. So Happy Birthday Cydney. Also congratulations to her and the spurs because they won again tonight and she is the only girl on the team and she is like her dad full of energy and congratulations to RA they were in the Sugar Bowl classic this weekend and there were teams from all over the United States and Riverside won the trophy and came out first. Also thanks to public works you all did an excellent job cleaning up River Road and the areas that I had asked about at the last meeting and Happy New Year to everyone."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would like to thank my fellow council members for your vote of confidence. I would also like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and extend my condolences as well to the families and ask that you continue to pray for them at this time."

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel Matters

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

Cable Franchise Agreement

LaPlace Industrial Properties, LLC versus The Parish of St. John the Baptist - 40th JDC, Docket No. 61301

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

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:15 PM, Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Jaclyn Hotard
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary