

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**CHAIR JACLYN HOTARD**  
**VICE CHAIR LENNIX MADERE**

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ABSENT:** Ranney Wilson

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

Legal Counsel Jeff Perilloux, Billy O'Regan and Carl Butler were present.

**INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES**

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - Fire Prevention Week Oct. 6-12**

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for Fire Prevention Week October 6<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> of 2013. She and the Council expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the work done by the St. John Fire Departments.

**Natalie Robottom - Presentation - 2012 & 2013 Teen & Miss Andouille Queens**

Natalie Robottom presented the 2012 Teen & Miss Andouille Queens and thanked them and their parents for their year of service to the parish while on their reign. The Andouille Festival Poster was also presented at the meeting and is for sale now throughout the parish. The artist is a local resident from the West Bank. The entire council commented on the beautiful poster.

**Natalie Robottom - Presentation - St. John Warriors Dizzy Dean State Champions (11 & 12 year olds)**

Natalie Robottom presented the St. John Warriors Dizzy Dean State Champions to the 11 & 12 year olds. She and the Council congratulated them on a job well done. Their parents were also congratulated and they were asked to keep up the good work.

**Consent Agenda**

**Items:** Approval of Minutes - September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Regular Meeting;

Councilman Madere - Appointment of Lynne Ralph Farlough to the South Central Louisiana Human Services Authority; Permit Approval - ESJ Homecoming Parade date change from 10/25/13 to 10/24/13.

**MOTION:** Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes - September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Regular Meeting; Councilman Madere - Appointment of Lynne Ralph Farlough to the South Central Louisiana Human Services Authority; Permit Approval - ESJ Homecoming Parade date change from 10/25/13 to 10/24/13. The motion passed with 7 yeas, 1 abstaining (Millet) and 1 absent (Wilson).

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

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

Randy Vincent stated, *"This ordinance adds new street addresses to the 911 system and Administration recommends approval."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-40. The motion passed with Councilman Wilson absent.

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

Angelic Sutherland, Director of Planning and Zoning, stated, *"This rezoning was unanimously approved by the Planning Commission at its September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting and Administration recommends approval."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-41. The motion passed with Councilman Wilson absent.

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

Angelic Sutherland stated, *"This re-subdivision was unanimously approved by the Planning Commission at its September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting and Administration recommends approval."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-42. The motion passed with Councilman Wilson absent.

**13-43** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval to further extend the valid period of time of Conditional Subdivision Approval for

an additional twelve (12) months for **Praise Place Subdivision**, Lots 27 through 83 and parcels V-1, V-2 and V-3, on East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, situated in Section 46 and 47, T-11-S, R-7-E, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish. (N. Robottom)

Angelic Sutherland stated, "The developer is requesting an additional 12 month extension on the conditional approval of this subdivision. Administration recommends approval."

Councilman Snyder asked, "This is just a thought I had we are actually rubber stamping these and saying it is okay for these people to build these homes in these subdivisions which they may have started 5, 10 or 15 years ago and since I have been there I think we have done this 2 or 3 times and I was just a little concerned and I just need to be sure that all of the standards that we now have especially today's flood elevation standards applies to all of these properties and any other standard that has been changed, amended or established since these were approved. I am concerned about that part of it because actually what we are saying here is that if a base flood elevation has changed and we approve that the way we are approving it we are approving it the way it was back before the base flood elevations changed and can we be held responsible to some extent if there are some problems in the future with this."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "This is just actually the subdivision that was created. It doesn't involve the actual building of the homes or structures that comes after and every time the developer wants to build a particular house they have to come to the P&Z Office and receive a permit so base flood elevations are addressed at that time when they receive the permit not when they go through this development phase of their subdivision and Praise Place is not even located in a special hazard flood zone so you wouldn't have to worry about the base flood elevations in this particular subdivision."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Okay but any other standard that may have changed would they have to conform to those also?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Yes what happens is there are three different phases preliminary, conditional and final and preliminary is basically the conceptual phase it is just a drawing of what you plan or are proposing. When it comes to conditional after you get conditional approval and before you reach the final you have to install all of your infrastructure and everything that is needed to finalize your subdivision and all the requirements and parish standards have to be in place prior to your final being accepted. The code does allow the council to extend the conditional approval. I know in this particular situation and they have had other developers that have made these similar request and it is because of economic times and people simply aren't wanting to build new homes and buying those new homes and so that is kind of why the subdivisions are on hold."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I understand that I really do. I just wanted to be sure that we were on board and that these developers understand that and what we are rubber stamping right here is not that the standards back then are what we are using today because we know most of it has changed even if it is just the drainage that you put in some of these things a larger culvert or something like that but all of that

will be discussed when they start building again that is what you are telling me?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Well with the subdivisions they are not building structures this is just the development of the subdivision now there is infrastructure that has to be put into place but not actual structure and that infrastructure plan is reviewed by the parish engineer as well as the Utilities and Public Works Department."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Alright that was all I needed to know. I just wanted to know how that was done thank you."

Councilman Gauff stated, "Just for an explanation maybe when you talk about the plan it is for the streets and the drainage and that is what they are setting up right now right?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "This is for lots 27-83 I don't think that they have installed infrastructure for those lots yet. They normally do that when they are coming to us for final but if they are extending their conditional they are not ready to do that yet."

Councilman Gauff stated, "What I was saying or what I was trying to lead to is that I don't feel like I am rubber stamping anything. I feel like whenever someone comes before you or before us asking for an extension of a subdivision that the engineers, parish directors they are all going to get on board to say what needs to be done for them to extend this subdivision then they are going to go before you and get the proper package and permits so that they do abide by or obey the laws the elevation whatever they need right now so that they don't put water on the next persons home and different things like that and I think your question is that we aren't creating other problems drainage issues or stuff like that. I think that is where you have always had an issue with stuff like that and I could be wrong but I thought that was what the issue was."

Councilman Snyder stated, "No I want to know exactly what this entails. Does it entail our engineers looking at this and saying okay this development for the infrastructure does it match up with what is supposed to be here today or are we going by what was put here 10 years ago and that is my concern. If we stamp this thing and say we are going by standards from 10 years ago and someone wants to buy a home there and instead of 16 inch culverts they have 12 inch because that is what the plan was 10 years ago and we know now we are going with larger culverts but you have explained that to me and I am satisfied now I also know that this subdivision here and very few subdivisions that we put up today don't have sidewalks in them is that part of the infrastructure. I mean there are no sidewalks in this subdivision and I question that. I questioned some of the owners why don't you have sidewalks and that is a new subdivision less than 5 years old."

Councilman Madere stated, "I am familiar with that subdivision too it is in my district and Mr. Snyder's concern is valid and I think it was answered that they are going to have to go through a lot of other processes before they actually start building structures on the land and I have a meeting coming up with one of the developers and I have to get back with him next week to discuss some concerns that are in that subdivision and that is a good point that you brought up about the

*sidewalks that is the one thing they didn't think of at that time so we can talk with him at that time about placing sidewalks in that area but I definitely understand what Ms. Sutherland said that the other process and things that they have to go through that are going to make sure that they are at the right standards that are required at this time. So I agree with her this time."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-43. The motion passed with Councilman Wilson absent.

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

Angelic Sutherland stated, *"The developer is requesting an additional 12 month extension on the conditional approval of this subdivision. Administration recommends approval."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-44. The motion passed with Councilman Wilson absent.

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

Natalie Robottom stated, *"This property acquisition is required for the Foxwood Levee project it is being funded through grant funds and there is a process that was required to be followed which is in the appraisal numerous letters back and forth to the property owner this is a requirement for us to proceed with that project. We are very pleased to have made it to this point and this is a piece of the property that will require mitigation so we ask that you approve this so that we can move forward with this project."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-45. The motion passed with Councilman Wilson absent.

**13-46** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval for the Parish President to purchase immovable property and improvements described as Parcel 3A of Lot H, New Era Plantation, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana by Act of Cash Sale from Landmark Urban LLC, funded by the St. John the Baptist Parish's Disaster Recovery Community Development (CDBG) Program and to execute the Act of Cash attached hereto and all other documents necessary for the Parish of St. John the Baptist to acquire title to the property.

(N. Robottom)

Natalie Robottom stated, "This property acquisition is also required for the Foxwood Levee project and Administration recommends approval."

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-46. The motion passed with Councilman Wilson absent.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilwoman Millet stated, "The finance committee met tonight at 6:00 PM and I would like to ask for a motion from one of my fellow council members to ratify the motions made at that meeting."

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed Councilman Wilson absent.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

Torri Buckles, Director of Economic Development, stated, "I would just like to quickly go over the festival line up and some of the other events that we have for the Andouille Festival. The event is scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> at the St. John Civic Center on Hwy. 51 and we have a full line up and I will start with the entertainment. She gave a listing of the performers for the weekend as far as bands, dance teams, Sunday gospel tent, Kids tent and a barber shop quartet. On Sunday we will have the introduction of the newly crowned festival Queen's and King's we also have several children readings and closing out with the At Close Distance band on Sunday evening. We have over 21 food vendors and 20 craft vendors that will be featured and I am very excited about this it is the best of St. John. We also have several contest and we still have openings. I will start with the gumbo cook off contest on Saturday morning so church, work groups, friends or families there is a cash prize awarded to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners and there is only a maximum of 10 teams so we have a few openings still left so if you are interested please go to our website we are extending the deadline due to Tropical Storm Karen until this Friday so by Friday please submit your application and fee and it is a cash prize award. Our Andouille pageants again due to TS Karen it has been moved to Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 4:30 PM and again you can find more contest information on line at our website. Our apron art contest is only open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade art classes in St. John all of the aprons are due at the EDC office by October 11<sup>th</sup> and again there is a cash prize awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners of \$500.00, \$300.00 and \$200.00 so I am sure there are a lot of art classes that would be able to benefit from that and then finally we are still seeking contestants for the Andouille eating contest which we have called the "Dang Douille" so for those who would like to participate as an individual or group just go to our website and fill out the application and submit it and again there is a cash prize to the winners as well. Finally we have our Andouille run which is scheduled for Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> and that starts at 8:00 AM and that application is on line as well and our jazz brunch featuring artist Clinton Gerard he is a resident of the area and Mr. Gerard has actually traveled internationally and he has a great litany of artist that he has

traveled with the tickets are \$35.00 we do have them on sale here this evening and you can purchase them by the parish office. For those that are interested in purchasing POP ride bracelets they are available at multiple locations including our parish office here as well as the Edgard Courthouse you can also purchase them at Matherne's, Gregg's and Don's Supermarket and the price is \$20.00 and at the festival it will be \$25.00 and the times are Friday 6-10, Saturday 1-5 and 5-10 and Sunday 1-5 and you can also purchase the per ticket rides which is \$1.00 a ticket and your card of 20 tickets for \$20.00. We do anticipate giving out our vouchers by Monday to each of the schools which includes each student being able to receive one free ride of their choice and one free concession item which could be popcorn or cotton candy and that is one way that we worked with our ride vendors to give back to the community and finally I would just like to say thank you very much to all of our sponsors this is the first year that we launched the program but we got a very good reception.

Rhonda Lemmons, Director of Health & Human Services, stated, "I would like to share with you some of the details of the activities and services that will be provided through the health and wellness fair this Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM. The location is REGALA gym, 200 Regala Park drive in Reserve. We will be providing a huge array of services and activities that will help increase health awareness and some of those are free basic health screenings and I say free because I want to make sure that the community understands that these services are provided free of charge and I am going to go through some of those so that you will know what we will be doing. The free basic screenings will be sleep apnea, blood pressure, glucose, blood med, body med and self-depression. Some of the demonstrations on site will be CPR, use of diabetes equipment, use of some repertory equipment, dental demonstrations for children, breast self-exams and how to use the automatic external defibrillator. We will be providing educational sessions on good dental hygiene, out-patient mental health and substance abuse services, the impact of affordable life care on Medicaid and LA Chip, behavioral health, digging out diabetes and obesity, prostate and men's preventative health, benefits to compounding prescriptions, hypertension, asthma, allergy and smoke detectors. Very recently we added free services relative to affordable health care. There will be one navigator specialist on site to work with consumers and small businesses, three certified counselors to work with consumers only and we are trying currently to acquire once managed beacon certified counselors as well, these counselors will be on site with their laptop. They will be passing out information and providing assistance regarding the healthcare market place. They will help to explain the various plans, different carriers and instruct individuals on how to fill out their application. These counselors also will be working at the three certified applications centers that will be serving this area which are the Teche Action Clinic, Affordable health Louisiana who will be housed at the Norco Clinic and River Parishes Hospital. So we are inviting everyone to come out and take advantage of this great opportunity."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Do these flyers go out to the schools and the grocery stores and post offices for the kids to take home, especially the schools?"

Rhonda Lemmons stated, "We sent to the schools, to the faith based

ministries, Place du Bourg, the Council on Aging and Head start and we also advertised in the newspapers, Ch. 15 and our parish website."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Well good thank you fantastic job."

Rhonda Lemmons stated, "While I am here I would like to also invite everyone to take an opportunity to visit the department of health and human services website and familiarize themselves with the services that we provide and the wonderful things that we are doing in the community."

Councilman Wright stated, "I had sent an email to you in reference to the River Forest Canal and the Lasseigne Canal and if you could give me an update on those two items."

Brian Nunes, Director of Public Works, stated, "You did send an email and a concern for the spraying of the canals and we had some access problems back there and you also addressed River Forest. I brought Mr. Roussel here who is actually performing the spraying on that canal to address any specific questions that you may have."

Councilman Wright stated, "I think the first one like we talked about was the access. The original problem was the tree limbs blocking where you couldn't get through with an actual boat to spray and finish spraying the canal."

Brian Nunes stated, "I think we have addressed that issue. The other issue that you did have was when we had cleaned some material out of the canal and left it on the canal bank that was simply to let that material dry before we hauled it off and it will be removed it is not permanently there."

Councilman Wright stated, "On the River Forest Canal and I think that was one of the major concerns especially in River Forest because they were concerned about the un-level bank."

Brian Nunes stated, "That is just a matter of letting the material dry before we can move it now as far as specific to the spraying I can let Mr. Roussel answer any questions that you had."

Councilman Wright stated, "If it was sprayed and the tree limbs were moved away and access was permitted then I think that answered my question."

Councilman Snyder asked, "I did talk to Brian about this before and he was supposed to try to get some heavy equipment you know that little spot in Garyville that you started they have so many big trees in there and then you told me sooner or later you could go back and get some larger machines and go in there and try to clean that out a little bit."

Brian Nunes stated, "We actually did go back to that area we just started from the other side this time so we are coming from a different direction but we are going to finish that canal."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay thank you."



Councilman Madere stated, "I just want to thank your department. You went and removed the culvert on E. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, blocked it off and you said you are going to spread the dirt that they picked up to cover the holes that happened from individuals passing on the property and also I want to thank you again we had the storm heading our way and I let you know that a resident called me about a tree that had a hole in the middle of it and I called and within a half an hour someone was over there taking care of it because that tree would have fallen with any type of strong wind that would have come through so I want to thank the department for working with us."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I know I have sent you some emails and we have talked about it the project going on at Reserve Christian. I guess I want to know a little bit or maybe you can tell me a little bit about the collapsed culvert. Is that running along the west side of that project? Is that one that we are going to have to replace or is that something that they are going to do because I sent an email but hadn't received an answer."

Brian Nunes stated, "We are currently looking at that. If it is not our drainage servitude there is really nothing that we can do there but if it is our property then it is our responsibility to get it changed but I need to make that determination before I give you a solid answer."

Councilman Gauff stated, "Okay and I wasn't sure if it had been determined or not."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Along Airline Highway, Winn-Dixie and to the car dealership are we responsible for keeping the grass on that ditch area clean or is that DOTD?"

Brian Nunes stated, "That is a state highway because it is their right of way however if it does get out of hand then we tend to cut it just to keep it looking nice and safe for the drainage and whatnot."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Mr. Nunes we have an issue that has been going on the canal behind Country Club for quite some time and it still has not been resolved. Do we have a time frame of when we are finally going to get this taken care of? I am talking about the erosion problem that we are dealing with over there that you promised would be taken care of once you finished this other project that bid and I am still waiting and the residents are very patient and I thought it was done until I got the last email so if you could put that in your to do list I would appreciate it and you can write that one off?"

Brian Nunes stated, "I won't forget about you it is still a promise."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "No I want you to write it off after you finish it put it at the top of the list because 2 years is a long time."

Brian Nunes stated, "You are right 2 years is a long time."

Councilman Snyder stated, "One other thing Brian I see that there were four rounds that they made for spraying the canals what is the purpose of the four rounds?"

Brain Nunes stated, "Typically we do three rounds and Mr. Roussel may be able to address this a little further. Normally the contract is for three rounds but because it hadn't been done in a while we added a fourth round to make the initial two to get the first wave of weeds out of the way."

Derek Roussel, Roussel's lawn care, stated, "That is precisely the recommendation and it is an optional 4<sup>th</sup> round is what we said we just asked to have it available if we needed it and the thing that is important to understand about spraying canals is it is really a maintenance spraying. It is not different than a mechanical mowing of the canals. So you are very limited on the product you can use in a canal because of run off etc. and also the quantity or the doses that you can use. So with that being said canal spraying is really a product of timing and application and that is what it amounts to. People who are familiar with just spraying a ditch bank in their backyard and this is a dry ditch bank they spray it when there is no water in it it is a weed that pops up and it is grown on the edges of the canal and that is easy to control and one of the basic products that we use is glyphosphate which is round up basically but it is labeled for aquatic use and in two weeks if you spray it there is still vegetation that comes right back in there. So it is important to understand that it is a mechanical mowing and that is why the 3<sup>rd</sup> or the 4<sup>th</sup> round is important because there is no one shot cure all that just cleans out vegetation. When you are dealing with water hyacinth and some of the floating vegetation one chemical application can very well get rid of that product but the problem is we have tidal flow. So you have the swamps and all that will back up floating vegetation back into your area and that produces a problem where you have to go back. Now you can go on an as needed basis but the problem with going on an as needed basis is that by the time everybody calls you and you do a reactionary approach you are going to spend more money on chemicals on just constantly going back and forth to spray it. So if we can get this program under wraps and get it where we can get most of the floating vegetation if you remember from the hurricane the water hyacinth had come up all the way to Airline whereas before that we were only dealing with that in the back of 1/3 of all of our canal systems. It is just a lot more to kill and then the other thing is once we can get this emergent vegetation like alligator grass and smart weed to the ditch banks and not in the middle of the canal and so far out you will be able to lessen your doses and definitely curtail your applications. I don't know if you will ever get it less than three sometimes you can and sometimes you might be able to wait until the spring of next year but for right now you almost need to have a continuous effort out there spraying it and once you can start seeing those canals clean up and like I said get it to the edge of the bank you are going to see that reduced."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you for that and I do appreciate that explanation but the only issue I had and Brian knows what it is but we weren't spraying the entire canal and that is the only issue I had now as far as the work and spraying that most of you guys did those canals look beautiful you can almost put a boat and go skiing in there but parts of it still have weeds in it."

Derek Roussel stated, "You know in Lasseigne Canal imp articular we have an access problem and look absolutely spraying the entire canal is the right approach you want to spray and get 100% coverage so that when

it comes back you have less and less whereas if you are getting 60% coverage and you have 40% of actively growing grass and vegetation out there growing so that is something that you want to get a handle on. Remember this those canals were really bad and we sprayed applications of aqua kneed on there and that is the roundup and I am telling you I have been spraying for a long time and I have sat there and had some of my guys spray it and I came back 2-3 weeks later and it was almost like we fertilized it. It was right back. So I just took it on maybe application error and I went and re-sprayed these canals myself at my own cost and we have another chemical we use and what I said to myself was maybe we need to up the chemical and manipulate some of the dosage that we did because maybe we acted too quick. So I went there personally sprayed it and monitored and it came right back. Well I did a lot of research on the project and I have a father-in-law that is in turf grass at LSU he is retired I had him make some phone calls at LSU for me and said look we have a severe alligator grass infestation at some points in our canals. We came up with a new product, it is actually not new I recognized the active ingredient in it, it is actually something that we have used at industrial sites for a while but I didn't realize there was an aquatic label on it and we used that chemical and it worked excellent. It is starting to come back a little bit right now and we are just starting to spray it again and you will see where Vicknair went from 80% fully covered canal to where we had open water everywhere and it is starting to come back in a few areas but what I can tell you is that I am very encouraged with that. The Lasseigne Canal we have not used that product on there until recently I used it on September 27<sup>th</sup>, the critical thing with this product is it takes 12 to 14 days before you even see a sign of it working and it says in the label that it can take weeks until you have control. So it has been about 8-9 days and I went ride it this morning. It is distinctly yellower than what an active growing weed would be. I did see where there were some edges that we didn't catch and we actually hit them again today. I can tell you in the next 15 days on all of our canals you are going to see a distinctly different and we do have some of those canals in check to where you are going to see that reduction at the sites."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So we did get to most of the vegetation in there? That was what I was concerned about."

Derek Roussel stated, "Yes sir."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Obviously there is a science to canal spraying and we are just asking for patience. What happened was we discontinued our full parish canal spraying and so the reason we went with four off the bat was that we needed to get control of what was happening. We had some employees that were trained and we are actually working with Derek on that. We didn't have the personal to cover all of our canals. So we went back to we need help with this and part of it is we need to get it under control. Once we do then it will be regular maintenance but please bear with us you can see the difference in it obviously we have someone who is aware of what it takes and is willing to go that extra effort to research and find out what our problem is and keep in mind we do have a lot of grass and weeds that came as a result of Isaac that went a lot further so it is going to take us a little while to get it under control but we will get it under control and that will be one more piece that we put with all of our different

grass cutting with our parish workers and all the other contractors it is a critical component we are glad that you were able to come out and explain it but again a lot more detail involved in canal spraying then I would have thought and thank you very much for sharing that with us."

Councilman Madere stated, "At the last council meeting I had Mr. Boucvalt to the podium and I made a statement concerning knowing certain things going on in the district beforehand and I called him myself after I thought about it for a couple of days because I didn't want it to seem as though I was on him and I explained that to him on the phone and I told you I was going to make this comment at the council meeting also because I wanted to call and personally apologize because I didn't want him to feel as though I was jumping on him about this issue and that is why I said we are going to make this apology at the council meeting also because I think a lot of people when they looked at it might have taken it the wrong way that I was saying you did something wrong or in that nature. So that is why I told you I was going to bring you up and you said it wasn't necessary but to me it was necessary because if I do something or say something wrong I am not ashamed to say it but in the same way if I feel I'm right that is a different situation. So thank you."

#### **Lucien Gauff - (Carry Over 9-24-13) Comcast**

Councilman Gauff stated, "We are going to carry this item over."

#### **Ranney Wilson - Budget discussion**

Councilman Wilson was absent and his item will be carried over.

#### **Larry Snyder - Insurance Committee - Selection of Chairman**

Councilman Snyder commented that we will take this up at the next Insurance Committee Meeting.

#### **Larry Snyder - Quality control in small projects**

Councilman Snyder stated, "This could be a tedious subject and I am not pointing the fingers at anybody but to me any job that is done in the parish there should be a beginning and an ending and the ending should always have some control over it and we should be the last one to say okay it is finished and done and I am not quite sure if we do that with all of our projects. I know sometimes we do it with pictures and I can make a picture do almost anything I want it to do with the angle I take the picture from so I just want to say if we are working on streets or drainage and the reason why I brought this up was because again I have seen where we had cement that comes off the side of forms to hold the cement in place I am finding that at the end of our streets and that shouldn't be there. If the job is finished then those should be gone not at the end of some of our dead end streets and you go down there and say well what is this doing there and that is what kind of rubs me the wrong way because it seems like if somebody is following and inspecting that job then that shouldn't be there. I had to ask the public works department would you mind going move these lights and traffic control devices because they were staying on our streets for too long. The one right there on Madewood it was two days and it was gone I don't know who did that job but they did a good job and they got

it done and everything was gone. The one on Cambridge Drive over there stayed there for five days for a little block that they put in the street. I had to ask the PW department to move it out of the street because it was a safety hazard. So I am saying if somebody is following these jobs then that should be part of their job to make sure that part is okay before you sign off and give these people a check and that is all I am asking when we are doing these small projects. Thank you."

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Ranney Wilson - Drainage and Drainage equipment**

Councilman Wilson was absent and his item will be carried over.

**Cheryl Millet - (Carry Over 9-24-13) Hurricane Isaac**

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I put this on the agenda first off I was unable to attend the Isaac anniversary program that was set up and it has been brought to my attention by a lot of the people that gave of themselves to help with Hurricane Isaac immediately after the storm and I am talking about your faith based organizations, your high school kids, people who came to the rescue of our citizens and for some reason they weren't and I know there were a lot of people that came out and helped but not everyone was thanked or recognized and I am talking about the catholic charities and how many meals they served out of AOL church or how many items SJA collected and distributed not to mention the Baptist churches and the boy scouts. There were so many people that gave of themselves and I want to personally take this opportunity to thank them because they felt slighted and they came to me and told me they felt slighted so I wanted to make sure that this council jointly thanked them all of them for their efforts and there were a lot there is no way we can thank everybody because there were so many people but I want them to understand that it wasn't intentional that they were not thanked and that is why I put that on there."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I agree with you and unfortunately you were not able to attend and we sent invitations to everyone who helped. We have a faith based list that gets everything that we send out and every single one of them who joined and helped out received an invitation. I wasn't able to attend the night time event but I understand there were even more of them who were there but we thanked everyone and those of you who were in attendance we want to thank you and we did not single out anyone in particular to thank. We thanked all of our helpers. I know in my speech I discussed all of our faith based organizations, schools and churches. We actually reached out to the school children and they elected not to come but the superintendent was there so if anybody was slighted we apologize for that but we slighted no one. It was in advertisements."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Mrs. Robottom I am not going to get in an argument with you because this is only to thank people not to argue. All I am saying is when someone brings something to my attention I address it and I am not speaking for you. I am speaking for me."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I understand that."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Okay and I am not going to argue with you."

*I made my statement."*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "Those of you in attendance can account for how it was handled and I think it was handled extremely well. The outreach that we did through newspaper, ads, Facebook, websites, direct mail to everyone who helped not only in this parish but we had help from around the country. So again if someone felt slighted that was not our intention because we thanked everyone and if those of you who were in attendance could please speak to that I think it would be helpful."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "I attended both and trust me Mrs. Millet I don't know how anyone can feel slighted. I know some people that did some things and I thanked them and they got noticed at the Civic Center and they had invitations all over the place and if you couldn't make one you could make the later one at the church which was very touching and beautiful also. Now if someone got slighted maybe they didn't get an invitation or maybe they didn't see the invitation I don't know but I know they were out there and there were a lot of people out there that we thanked and we all had the opportunity to speak to them."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "I understand what you are saying Mrs. Millet and I feel the same way in my district. When someone brings something to my attention then I have to address it so I definitely agree with you making that statement but I also have to agree with Mr. Snyder I don't see how anyone who attended could have felt as though they were left out because it was mentioned and they thanked everyone. I also remember the statement being made that if anyone was missed or overlooked it was not intentionally. So I think that speaks for itself. They also had two functions and I can think back I keep remembering the first day there were three young men, I don't even know their names that helped me help someone else. There were a lot of people that did a lot of great things it just went unnoticed and unrewarded but by no means did this administration or council or anyone went out to intentionally to forget anyone but I also understand where you are coming from when someone does ask you to address something that is in your district you are obligated to do that and I thank you for bringing that out but I have to admit that I think everyone was properly notified maybe not individually but it was out there."*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Jaclyn Hotard/Lennix Madere - Resolution - R13-36 - A Resolution requesting the LOUISIANA STATE LEGISLATURE to amend La.R.S. 33:1236.26 by adding St. John the Baptist Parish therein**

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to approve Resolution R13-36 - A Resolution requesting the LOUISIANA STATE LEGISLATURE to amend La.R.S. 33:1236.26 by adding St. John the Baptist Parish therein **WHEREAS**, in an attempt to control the accumulation of tall grass and obnoxious weeds, the St. John the Baptist Parish Council implores the LOUISIANA STATE LEGISLATURE to amend La. R.S. 33:1236.26 by adding St. John the Baptist Parish therein; and **WHEREAS**, in the interest of public safety and welfare for all residents and businesses in St. John the Baptist Parish, which has no municipalities, the St. John the Baptist Parish Council deems it a necessity to have greater authority to compel property owners to cut grass and obnoxious weeds. **NOW BE IT RESOLVED**, by the St. John the

Baptist Parish Council that it does hereby urge, implore and request the LOUISIANA STATE LEGISLATURE to amend La. R.S. 33:1236.26 by adding St. John the Baptist Parish therein, in the interest of public safety and welfare and further, that copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Parish's legislative delegation. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 absent (Wilson).

**Larry Snyder - St. John Civic Center - seating options for small and large events**

Councilman Wilson asked that a meeting be set up with administration to address this issue.

**Jaclyn Hotard - Resolution - R13-37 - A Resolution requesting the members of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to urge President Barack Obama to issue an Executive Order to delay the implementation of Sections 205 and 207 to the Biggert-Waters Reform Act of 2012 for four years to allow FEMA to complete the congressionally mandated affordability study on proposed National Flood Insurance Program rate increases, subsidy elimination, and the revoking of grandfathered policies**

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I placed this on the agenda with what is going on in Washington right now but the River Region Chamber actually just passed a resolution that mirrors this exact resolution so we don't need to vote on this at this time. So it can be removed."

There was no executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

Parish Buildings - Security

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

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

Any and all pending legal matters

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

**13-47** An ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of (not to exceed Six Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$6,400,000) of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2013, of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana; prescribing the form, fixing the details and providing for the rights of the owners thereof; providing for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds and the application of the proceeds thereof to the refunding of certain bonds of said Parish; and providing for other matters in connection therewith (N. Robottom)

## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good Evening - We were very fortunate that Tropical Storm Karen turned out to be a non-event this weekend, but the Parish was ready and prepared. My staff, parish employees and partner agencies who worked long hours last week and weekend in preparation for the storm, deserve a great deal of thanks. It was a great training exercise for the parish. I'd also like to thank everyone who participated in our first Fall Clean Sweep event a couple of weeks ago. It makes a huge difference in the community and we encourage you to continue the beautification efforts throughout the year. Dates and information for the Spring Clean Sweep will be announced at a later date. Wastewater improvements have started in Reserve as part of the Wastewater Rehabilitation Project and as a result work crews and equipment will be stationed in the area. The work is expected to last through November 2013. No road closures are expected at this time; however, more information will be released as it becomes available. Also, DOTD is beginning the intersection improvements at Belle Terre Blvd and Airline Hwy. Currently, utilities are being located before construction begins on the project, so please be cautious at that location. Congratulations to Prime Occupational Medicine owners and staff for their expansion into a new facility at 3584 W. Airline Hwy in Reserve. We wish them great success as they play an integral role in preparing our community for new jobs and careers. To create an account with Prime Occupational Medicine, businesses should contact the office at 225-749-5750 or visit their website at [primeoccmcd.com](http://primeoccmcd.com). For those who attended the public hearing on the CDBG funding last week, we received great input, ideas and suggestions for allocating the funding. The Public can continue to send comments through October 11 to the St. John the Baptist Parish Office. A second public hearing will be held on Monday, October 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers to solicit input from the public on the developed proposal. Residents impacted by Hurricane Isaac are encouraged to attend and submit their comments. The Army Corps of Engineers extended the comment period for the West Shore Levee Project through midnight on October 15. Comments can be emailed to [wslpadmin@usace.army.mil](mailto:wslpadmin@usace.army.mil). Reminder - Health and Wellness Fair - Saturday, October 12 - 10:00 to 3:00 at REGALA Gymnasium. The Andouille Pageant will be this Saturday, October 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the St. John Theatre in Reserve. Please come out and support our contestants. The Baby through Junior Miss Andouille Pageants will take place on Sunday, October 20 at noon during the festival at the Community Center. The pageants are open to girls, ages 6 months to 12 years old and boys, ages 6 months to 3 years old. To register for the Baby through Junior Miss Andouille Pageants please download an application at [andouillefestival.com](http://andouillefestival.com) or contact Dana Milioto at 985 652-9569. Night out Against Crime is scheduled for next Tuesday, October 15. Register your party at [stjohnsherriff.org](http://stjohnsherriff.org) or by calling 652-7058. Reminder - Early voting for the October 19 election is taking place this week through Saturday, October 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Registrar of Voter's Office located in the Percy Hebert Building in LaPlace and the West Bank Courthouse in Edgard. The 40<sup>th</sup> annual Andouille Festival will take place Friday, October 18 through Sunday, October 20 at Hwy 51 Park in LaPlace. Residents are encouraged to come out for music, good times and great food. Pre-Pay Ride Bracelets are available until Thursday, October 17 at **Matherne's Supermarket, Greg's Supermarket, Don's Supermarket, the Percy Hebert Building Receptionist Desk and the West Bank Courthouse**. More information can be found on the



festival website at [andouillefestival.com](http://andouillefestival.com). Festival prints are also available for sale. To purchase a print, please visit Greg's Supermarket, Matherne's Supermarket, or the Percy Hebert Building. An Andouille Festival Trivia Game is currently taking place on the Parish Facebook Page until the Andouille Festival. The Communications Department will post Andouille Festival Trivia Questions each morning on the Parish Facebook page and the first person who answers the question correctly will win the prize for that day. The Keep St. John Beautiful committee will be sponsoring an Andouille Run, on Sunday, October 20 at 8:00 a.m. at the park. Those interested can download an application for the run at [andouillefestival.com](http://andouillefestival.com). The Marathon Ezekiel Jackson Day at the Park will be rescheduled for a later date. The Support Our Troops Fundraiser Basketball Game between the St. John Sheriff's Offices vs. the Louisiana Army National Guard is rescheduled for Saturday, November 2, 2013 at REGALA Gym. All proceeds will go to sending care packages to soldiers of the 1084<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company in Afghanistan. Festivities and door prizes will begin at 10:30 a.m. and the basketball game will begin at 1:30 p.m. Admission is \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children ages 12 and younger."

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

Councilman Madere stated, "We are happy that the storm didn't have any type of impact on our community but also we had a lot of other things that had a lot of impact. I would like to give my condolences to the following families of Alfred William better known as Frog or Buster, to the Cook and Perrilloux families for the loss of their family members and to Ray Francois better known as Booster. All of these individuals we lost in the last few weeks so my condolences go to all of the families."

Councilman Snyder stated, "We have our gumbo cook off and we have a team council. The council was invited to take part in it so I think a few of these guys said they are going to at least give me a donation and we will be out there in our gumbo uniforms to try to cook a gumbo and I would like to thank the administration for their preparation for the storm. We did get a lot of good communication. Our outdoor mass and picnic is this weekend at OLG so come out and enjoy a good mass with us and some free food and like Mr. Madere said all of those guys you mentioned that passed we all know all those people I send them all my condolences and I am sorry for your lost and thank God the storm didn't come by."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Quick question Mrs. Robottom, will the DOTD doing the project will that take care of the drainage on Belle Terre or will it address that?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "That is not addressing that. There is a DOTD project for the drainage and RPC actually I went to a meeting earlier today is partnering with them to add some additional dollars to address that. So that project is a separate project. This was primarily the interchanges but there is a project on the books for the drainage on Belle Terre."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Okay thank you so much. Also I would like to thank Mrs. Robottom and all the employees who participated in getting St. John on alert for Karen thank God it didn't come our way."

*Also my condolences to the families they are friends and cousins of mine and I send my sympathy."*

*Councilman Wright stated, "I just want to compliment you guys also on the communication and preparations for TS Karen. We were extremely blessed and given some good weather to enjoy after. So whoever made the calls to the man upstairs thank you and keep him on speed dial."*

*Councilman Gauff stated, "I would also like to start by wishing my condolences to the families. Our prayers go out to you only time and prayers will help you heal. I would like to say thank you to administration and the communications department we were very informed on the status this weekend so thank you for a job well done. I would like to say congratulations to Mrs. Lemmons I have stopped by and talked about your department and what you are doing keep up the good work and hopefully we will get a lot of people that come out and participate in the wellness program. It is really a great event thank you for putting that together for us. Also the mass at OLG let's get out there and support OLG it is a great event."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "I just forgot I have my pink cup for Breast Cancer Awareness so let's all remember that and the NFL is doing a very good job with it."*

*Councilman Gauff stated, "Also I want to thank the Economic Development that was a fantastic program. I guess this weekend we will get to see the festival and all the bands and the food and everything but that sounds like a great lineup and it seems like a lot of work has gone into it so thank you hopefully we will have a great event and great weather."*

*Councilman Smith stated, "Don't forget the night out against crime and congratulations to the teams, coaches and parents."*

*Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just wanted to remind everybody about the night out against crime as well. It is a great night to get out and meet your neighbors and I know there are so many parties going on it is very hard for all of us to make all the parties it isn't that we don't want to be there it is just hard to make them all especially when we all love to talk so if we don't show up it isn't because we didn't want to be there it is because we just couldn't make them all. So please get out and support your neighborhood and the parties register them with the Sheriff's Office so that you will have an opportunity to be able to help each other. It is all about being able to protect ourselves and help our communities and help our Sheriff's Office by knowing what is going on in our communities because we are the eyes of our community. Also I wanted to remind everyone that the free library is still up at 1925 Ridgefield they have a bunch of fresh new books that were put in this weekend so stop by if you are in the area take a book and leave a book."*

*Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you I would like to say really quickly I wish our Council Secretary feels better she works very hard and she is not feeling well so we pray she gets well soon. Also I love the Andouille Festival and I guess it is the weather but I am so excited about the festival coming up especially since with Isaac last year we didn't have one so right now I feel like I'm ready to get on*

*the Ferris Wheel and I am really looking forward to that. We have a great lineup so thanks for all of the hard work. Mrs. Rhonda thank you for putting together the health and wellness fair I will be tied up with my daughter this weekend so I won't be able to make it but I have been to your office and visited with you and I know all of the hard work that you do and I would like to ask everyone to join in on night out against crime. Keep up with the parish website there are a lot of good activities going on right now. We are going to cook the gumbo and take one for the team this time."*

**ADJOURNMENT :**

At 8:31 PM, Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Wilson absent.

/s/Jaclyn Hotard  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary