

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
**CHAIR LUCIEN GAUFF**  
**VICE CHAIR JACLYN HOTARD**

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ABSENT:** None

Councilman Madere led the Prayer. Councilman Perrilloux led the Pledge.

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

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - National Breast Awareness Month**

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation naming October National Breast Awareness Month and reminded everyone to wear their pink.

**Consent Agenda**

**Items:** Approval of Minutes September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - St. Peter's School fun run permit - 10/13/12

**MOTION:** Councilman Wilson moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - St. Peter's School fun run permit - 10/13/12. The motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**12-45** (Public Hearing held) An Ordinance granting final approval of Heron Bay Subdivision Lots 353-407 and Lot 416, located in Section 35, T13S - R18E, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana for Pleasure Bend Resort L.L.C. (PZS-12-1044) (N. Robottom)

Steven Field, Heron Bay owner, stated, "I wanted to thank the council and the parish engineer for representing us at the Planning Commission meeting in our absence."

Mary Fields, Heron Bay owner, stated, "I would like to personally thank

Councilman Smith. He has been a wonderful help to us and a valuable resource and I am very appreciative that he represents us on the West Bank and I just wanted to put that on record."

Davis Madere, LaPlace resident, stated, "I was a deputy in Pleasure Bend for three years and some of the citizens back there wanted me to bring up a few questions first being the system for evacuation of traffic in case of an emergency in particular the nuclear power plant. We can see it from Pleasure Bend and if something was to happen there that would be a two way street going in and out. Has that been considered? I am speaking of the two way highway going in and out and has any consideration been made for the extra traffic getting in and out."

Councilman Smith stated, "Well I really think that concerns the whole community back there not just Heron Bay."

Councilman Gauff asked, "So what you are saying is that this would increase the traffic in and out of Pleasure Bend with the addition of the subdivision?"

Davis Madere stated, "Correct sir."

Councilman Gauff asked, "So are you in support of or are you just asking us did we consider it?"

Davis Madere stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Smith stated, "No we did not but that is a consideration that should be taken for the entire community not just that particular project. If we are going to add more traffic back there then fine and dandy but still we should not say no we are not going to do this project because it is going to add more traffic but what about the people that are there now. We still have to look out for the safety of those people and have evacuation routes for those people also. So that is something that we will need to look at."

Davis Madere stated, "I am not here in opposition to it. I am simply asking questions. Also has St. James Parish been contacted or concerned about the extra students in their school system?"

Councilman Gauff stated, "That is another question that we would have to ask I would say the people that are with the subdivision and administration to see if they have asked St. James if they are aware and can they handle more students in their school system."

Davis Madere stated, "The citizens who have kids going to school there now are interested in that. The utilities which include mosquito control, ambulance service and garbage right now they are tied into one bill from the parish. We would like to know if that is also going to include Heron Bay."

Councilman Smith stated, "Correct me if I am wrong Mrs. Robottom, the ambulance service covers St. John Parish as a whole. Is that what you are talking about Mr. Madere? I didn't quite understand the question."

Davis Madere stated, "It has been said that this particular subdivision

is going to provide some of their own services such as perhaps water and garbage pick-up."

Steven Field stated, "When the subdivision was first applied for it was reviewed by DOTD for permits on access to the road and area including drainage. It was also reviewed by the parish engineer so the access in and out was really looked at early on. We also looked at all the schools and things of that nature and there were no problems. In terms of the supplies for emergency service, garbage and water the bills are already being issued to properties there. We are paying out fair share there as we speak and everybody there will. So your ambulance/emergency service is supported by our tax dollars and we are already being assessed garbage fees and water fees so that is all taken care of. The only thing that is really private in that area is the sewer system because there was no system to connect to we built our own and there are two small streets that are private and that was at the parishes request. So in answer to these concerns they have been taken care of."

Davis Madere stated, "Thank you sir I appreciate that. Also the fire department and our access to any fire protection right now we rely on the St. James Volunteer fire department. They are usually there first and I don't know how many residents Heron Bay is supposed to contain but St. James is definitely going to have to be consulted or our fire department is going to have to be put into service."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I think this is something that should have been brought up all in the preliminary process. It should have been discussed with St. James fire department to make sure they were able to handle this. Once again I am going to have to defer all of this went on 20 years ago as far as I am concerned and please excuse me Mr. Madere from all of us this has been going on for 20 years so in the early stage of this all of this should have been discussed and now we are picking up later on something that has been in the works for 20 years. So as far as the discussion we don't really have all of those answers because it should have happened initially."

Davis Madere stated, "Like I said in opening I was a deputy back there for three years and some people ask that I speak on this because if I am not mistaken this is not the first owners that tried to develop this. So this may have been brought up many years ago. One last situation I have been requested to ask if any possibility of recreation for these people has been considered? In Pleasure Bend there is no public recreation."

Councilman Smith stated, "I have had several conversations with Mr. Falgoust back there about donating land and creating a public space for recreation. We have had these discussions in the meetings previously so it isn't a forgotten thing Mr. Madere. It is something that we have been looking at and trying to develop. So once we can get this done I am going to get with Mr. Jones and the administration and we are going to get recreation back there in one form or another."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "The last time we discussed this wasn't it being handled by legal? So why are we discussing this if it is still in court with legal? Why are we here for this if legal is handling it?"

Jeff Perilloux, Legal Counsel, stated, "Just to try to answer your

question, as I appreciate it the time it was brought up before it was put on the agenda by Mr. Smith. The planning and zoning commission had not yet voted on approval or denial of the subdivision requests it was still in the approval process. Since it was brought up on the agenda I would assume if my recollection is correct that was prior to Hurricane Isaac it went to planning and zoning and as I appreciate it, it was approved by them. So it is here before us tonight for final approval as required in our code of ordinances and our laws."

Councilman Madere stated, "Thank you for clearing that up because we are a little confused because on our paper it says that the administration defers to the council for recommendation but you explaining that part clears it up now as far as anything to do with St. James we are more concerned with the subdivision itself and maybe the additional traffic that may be placed on the road going in and out of Pleasure Bend in case of evacuation but some of the other issues that were brought up we have no control over those things as far as the schools or the fire department in St. James."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "I have a question and this was on the administrative report that we received today that administration had deferred to legal counsel. So is everything clear from the administrations stand point."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes our legal counsel recommended approval based on the disclaimer being added to the ordinance and it is my understanding that they were approved. The Subdivision was granted final approval by the Planning Commission at its September 17th meeting with the following disclaimer: The streets and improvements (waste water) in this subdivision are not dedicated to the Parish, are not publicly maintained, and do not meet current Parish subdivision requirements. Because the subdivision does not meet the current code requirements, Administration deferred to legal counsel's recommendation for the disclaimer. For additional clarification we do have some agreements with St. James Parish it is an unusual circumstance in that Pleasure Bend we have to go through St. James to get to Pleasure Bend where the fire department has an agreement with the St. James fire department to provide fire services and there is also an agreement through the school system to provide education and transportation for the students there. Again without knowing the number and planning accordingly that is something that each resident who is moving in and of course the subdivision owner may have to verify but those agreements are in place right now with St. James and they have been in place for some time but we will make a note of all of the concerns and attempt to get some responses to you in the group based on your questions."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "So you are saying since it went through legal for administration and the disclaimer is in it is all good to go as far as administration is concerned?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "As long as it is approved with the disclaimers."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Was the issue cleared up pertaining to the bond that was being placed in case something happened?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We are not assuming them it was no longer

necessary. The disclaimer and everything that is written in here was approved as written by our legal counsel. So if this council approves it as such then our legal counsel has approved what is in here."

Councilman Gauff asked, "Are they in agreement with that?"

Steven Field stated, "Yes we are in agreement with that."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Ten years from now you have sold all of your lots and moved on the residents still live there and the streets are in bad shape, who fixes them?"

Steven Field stated, "There is a private home owners association that is setting aside capital reserve for those issues."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So they will take care of all the maintenance and repairs for this area because I would hate the residents who are paying taxes to the parish to come back to us to fix the roads."

Steven Field stated, "That is correct. When we sell the lots they will know that they will be giving that and it is also in the homeowners association bylaws that they know they will be assuming the maintenance for the roads and the waste water system."

Davis Madere stated, "Everyone I spoke to in Pleasure Bend requested that I send our deepest thanks to Councilman Smith for all of the help he gave us during the storm. We actually had more help than we thought we would ever get. Thank you."

**MOTION:** Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 12-45. The motion passed unanimously.

**12-46** (Public Hearing held) An ordinance granting approval of a portion of the Jean Baptist Ferrand Tract Lying North of West Second Street and South of the Y. & M.V. Railroad per a survey by Harold J. Flynn, L.S. dated April 16, 1972 to show the change of the current Zone of Zone R-1 to Zone MHD Formerly batture in the front of Section 25, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZR-12-1021) (N. Robottom)

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to deny Ordinance 12-46. The motion FAILED with 8 nays and 1 yea (Snyder).

**12-47** (Public Hearing held) An ordinance granting approval for the Parish President to accept the transfer for immovable property by Act of Donation, a copy of which is attached hereto, from Community Bank and to execute the Act of Donation and all other documents necessary for the Parish of St. John the Baptist to acquire title to the property. (N. Robottom)

Councilman Madere stated, "First of all I would like to thank Mr. Chuck Savoie, Community Bank, the parish president and Ms. Angelic Sutherland for working on this. This was an idea I came up with I am trying to bring more recreation to the district because some of these kids don't have transportation to get the East parks. So I thought it was a good

*idea to secure this piece of property and make it an area where the local kids could go and have a little sense of recreation and security at the same time. It isn't going to be a large park. My vision is a park for kid's maybe 5-12 so they can go and sit out there and play on a couple of swings and everything and their parents can sit out there with them and have somewhere to have recreation. I have an idea for the name of the park and we will do that later but I would like to thank everyone involved in making this possible."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 12-47. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 abstaining (Hotard).

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**12-48** An Ordinance pursuant to the charter and code of ordinances of St. John the Baptist Parish to temporarily change two polling Places as defined in Chapter 2, Section 2:5 of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinance for the November 2012, election. (N. Robottom)

**12-49** An Ordinance amending Ordinance 11-49 relative to the annual operating budgets for the St. John Parish General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds and Parishwide Sewerage Construction Fund for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2012. (N. Robottom)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 abstaining (Hotard).

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to go into a five minute recess. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Smith, Councilwoman Hotard, Councilwoman Millet and Councilman Wright asked for personal privilege to go back and change their votes for ordinance 12-46 to a no vote. This being done makes Ordinance 12-46 fail 8 against and 1 for.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

Councilwoman Millet asked, *"I just have a comment for Public Works I would just like to ask a lot of the signs and we do know that they have been tilted, missing or what have you as a result of the recent storm. What I would like to do is maybe provide each one of your work trucks with a hammer or something and if they see a sign leaning straighten it back up and see if we can get that taken care of rather than having a separate truck out there just to do that if that is at all possible."*

Brian Nunes, Director of Public Works, stated, "That is absolutely possible. I have no problem doing that."

Torri Buckles, Director of Economic Development, stated, "I would like to give a brief update. We are in the process of working on a 45 day economic impact report that will illustrate basically what are the primary impediments that are affecting the business community and the overall community of St. John. I do expect to have that report presented to the council by the end of October which will give us additional direction of some programs that we need to put into place to make sure that we recover quickly. Over the last couple of weeks FEMA has been completing door to door visits to the local business community. Some of the business owners here you may have received visits if not you should expect to receive them perhaps by the end of the week and what we don't have completed we will work with the local business community Ms. Eliza Eugene is here, we also have the Chamber that also volunteered to help us with this effort but the purpose of this program is to find out what the needs are of the business community. It probably takes about ten minutes or so to complete the surveys so we do encourage the business community when FEMA is meeting with you they are not going to take that information and use it for any other use other than helping us with the information that we need to collect here in the parish. We do have a business resource center that opened last month but we will be closing the center on the 19<sup>th</sup> of this month because the organizations that staff the center have to get back to their previous duties. We are very appreciative of organizations like the SBA, LSBDC, SCP Acion that have been here but their services have all been complimentary to the parish without any out of pocket expense to us but they do have to return back to their duties even though they are leaving we still do have business support services that are here in the parish through Ms. Eugene's office. You may have seen a press release early this week that talked about the three areas that we are concentrating on. The first is the ambassador program and that is a program which provides outreach to new businesses in the community. The second is a micro-enterprise program and that is designed for those that would like to start a business in St. John but they need technical assistance training to get that done and then finally we have the business retention/expansion program and that program is designed to help the existing business owners of St. John the Baptist Parish find opportunities to go and expand their business. If you have not already received a visit through Ms. Eugene's office you should expect to receive one but if you would also like to request a visit from her office or my office we will certainly be happy to meet with you you would just need to contact my office at 985-652-9569. Finally even though the Andouille Festival was cancelled we still are moving forward with recovery efforts particularly for the small business community. We recently made an application for a grant through the BP fund but the program that we are launching is called a taste of St. John of Andouille, seafood and the locals that love to cook. Basically what we are offering is a travelling festival that would give the local restaurant owners an opportunity to travel to different festivals across Louisiana to promote Andouille and seafood. We will be happy to announce details to that towards the end of this month."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Although the BRC is closing are we going to follow up on the businesses that did come there and use the

services?"

Torri Buckles stated, "Yes sir. We do have some preliminary numbers both from Ms. Eugene's office and from FEMA. I will start with the FEMA numbers to date they have completed 600 visits to the local business community of that 600 50% had some degree of economic loss. So whether that was flooding or wind damage or what have you they are probably not back up to full capacity just yet but the numbers that really do concern us are the 20% of the 600 have not reopened. So we do have a very aggressive technical assistance campaign in place that is going to help those businesses and give them the option to recover if they see fit."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "So being as though you said 20% is it wise to close this business resource center after 30 days?"

Torri Buckles stated, "Well the challenges with that is that the numbers have been declining over the last few weeks which they normally do during a disaster recovery period and even though the center is closing being that the organizations that staff it will no longer be there but Ms. Eugene and her team will still be there. So we are encouraging the business owners to reach out to them because they can receive the services locally as opposed to having to go to Metairie or Baton Rouge to meet with the rep."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Okay as long as we follow up with those businesses and don't lose them."

Torri Buckles stated, "Absolutely and I will make sure to provide a report of all the closed businesses as soon as we have them all."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Is the resource center closing because the resources are leaving or are the resources leaving because the resource center is closing?"

Torri Buckles stated, "It is a combination of a couple of things. The prior reason is that the resource providers are leaving they have to return back to their previous duties and then we are also nearing the end of the declaration period so resource centers typically only stay open through the declaration period."

Councilman Snyder asked, "And that's 30 days, the declaration period?"

Torri Buckles stated, "The official date is October 24<sup>th</sup>."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So what type of participation have you been getting over there?"

Torri Buckles stated, "So far we have had 100 businesses that have reached out for assistance and we wish those numbers were stronger. I am not exactly sure why the business community has not reached out for resources but it is not just in the business resource it is even on other local resources that just collectively as an administration we kind of wondered about."

Councilman Snyder asked, "What do we call low?"

Torri Buckles stated, "Well we have 3,500 registered occupational licenses in the parish and that equates to about 1,600 or 1,700 businesses. So when we look at about 1,600 businesses in the parish but only about 100 have reached out for assistance but we know that 600 have some type of economic impact the numbers in terms of those that are reaching out for assistance they aren't encouraging at least for me. My concern is that business owners may feel that their situation is okay for right now but it is going to be months from now when they probably really are going to start seeing the affect."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Mrs. Buckles, as a business owner, I am more busy right now trying to make sure that my business continues to operate then I am to spend time and I am speaking only for myself not for anyone else because I am one of the 600 that you are talking about. I am taking care of my staff and my business not worried about what resources are available to be because 9 times out of 10 the resources won't be available to me so I would rather take it upon myself and do it myself then go to stand in line, fill out forms, do this and then say I don't qualify. I know that I have my insurance to take care of what I need to take care of and that is why a lot of people are not using the resource center because they are taking care of themselves."

Torri Buckles stated, "Well all the resources at the center aren't actually financial resources. A lot of them are non-financial. The one thing that the business community lacks is maybe like a disaster recovery plan so in this instance many businesses were hurt because maybe they didn't have flood insurance or a plan for in the event that my business is destroyed for a period of months how would I be able to recover from that. So while there is access to capital resources at the center that is not the only purpose of it. It handles everything from business plan preparation, to disaster recover preparation and everything in between."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Maybe that is what the business community doesn't understand and I understand that you all are doing everything you possibly can but the business community doesn't find that St. John is friendly to the businesses. Just trying to open a business, as you know, is very difficult in St. John going through the hoops that you have to jump through. So they don't think that anything else that St. John is offering them is going to be beneficial at the same time and maybe what we need to do is focus on letting them know that this is for their good."

Torri Buckles stated, "I know there have been some challenges with some thoughts about the challenges being able to establish a business in St. John but I know that with this administration we have made significant changes that is one of the reasons why we made the enhancements to Ms. Eugene's contract so that it is more of an outreach. We are not perfect but I do realize that we are getting there and if anything we really encourage the business community to work with us. I find that my best conversations are the ones that just happen very casually when someone will give me their honest opinion and sometimes they are afraid to but that is what I think we all need in order to do better. So I think that we are much better than we have been probably in the last 9 months with Economic Development and we are going to continue to move forward."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "When you are putting together the

information for the businesses, the 600, I know you spoke about the ones with occupational licenses and some of those are people who may just have an office from home and they really operate in another place so when you put the information together can we just kind of break out people who actually have a true functioning business in St. John so we can really get a good idea of who was affected, who hasn't come in and who should be coming in?"

Torri Buckles stated, "Yes absolutely."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We would like to encourage, we are very fortunate FEMA isn't going to be with us forever. We are grateful for them being here now. As Mrs. Buckles indicated, they have been going out and visiting the businesses even though you didn't come into the center because we have done some outreach but knowing that the numbers aren't as high as we thought they should be from just riding around outreach teams have been going to the businesses trying to secure the information to help us plan for them. So we are going to continue to try everything we possibly can but understanding that we are looking at numbers and these individuals who are volunteering here to help us are sitting in the office waiting for people to come and they are not going to be able to do that for long so we are trying to reach out and encourage just like we are with all recovery efforts take advantage of the services while they are here. We ended up adding and we want to thank FEMA for putting these DRC flashing lights along Airline Hwy. no matter that the office had been opened since September 1<sup>st</sup>, I would run into people who didn't realize FEMA had an office still there. So if you can also help us by sharing the information that we are sharing with you to business owners that it is available and it is not just about capital and access to capital. There are other things being offered at the center just as there are additional things being offered at the DRC which is legal services, tax information, SBA so all of the resources are provided in one location and I think we also asked and they cooperated these community relation teams. We sent out information you can see we put it all over the resources available and the numbers to call. So again help us to help our residents. We are trying everything possible to get them information about what is available and we just need to keep trying because it won't stay here forever and we have to take advantage of everything that we have right now because we were told by the volunteers if we are not being used they are going to pull us back. So we do want our residents to take advantage while the resource center is opened. There are a lot of things that we encourage them to get information on."

**Ranney Wilson - (Carry Over 9-11-12) Fire Department issues and concerns - allowing the Volunteer Fire Chiefs to maintain and take care of their department along with Mr. Boucvalt**

Councilman Wilson asked that we carry this item over to the next meeting.

**Ranney Wilson - Upkeep for Railroad grass, culverts and drainage**

Councilman Wilson stated, "Maybe someone from administration can answer some of these questions but the railroad is not maintaining their property and we don't have the type of equipment to get on their property to do it but the culverts are clogged, they are not cutting

the grass and it is really burdensome on the drainage and the people that live by the tracks with all of the high grass. We need to get with them and some kind of a way - I mean some of these areas we can't even get to so they are going to have to do something to give us a hand with this."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I do have a couple of comments. I know Mr. Madere requested a representative and I forwarded contact information for a representative with the CN Railroad who was actually in town and looking to meet with some of the council members but on another note I have met with our Public Works Director and our CAO and asked that they schedule meetings with top level staff members from the railroad, DOTD, I met with the Sheriff, Mr. Vincent who manages our grass cutting contracts, the PLD and everyone with a responsibility for grass cutting in this parish, sometimes there is a duplication, sometimes nobody is cutting it but overall I think it has been a complaint for some time now and we have to get a better handle on it. I think trying to tackle this in the off season which is during the winter when grass isn't growing as quickly and establishing a plan that gets it all cut along all the roadways including the railways is important but we need people at the table who can make decisions and make commitments to it. So we will be working through Mrs. Rodgers working through Mr. Nunes to pull all these people together one to establish what they are supposed to be cutting and what level of quality we can expect and just letting them know that we are not satisfied and making sure that we are not duplicating efforts and that all of the areas that are public right-of-ways are being cut and being cut properly. So we share your concerns and I did forward that information Mr. Dinning I think is his name is looking forward to meeting with you and I think it is a great opportunity to discuss that but we are also going to be looking at more than just the CN railroad."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Culvert cleaning is one of the main things that need to happen."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I would just like to say Mrs. Robottom when you have those meetings with those parties that you just mentioned extend to the council even if just one or two of us show up to those meetings so that we can express our concerns and we could probably show them some things too because I know me and Mr. Madere have walked the tracks in some places and it is terrible."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Okay and if that is a specific one again identifying the railroad, I know CN is one that is in the area and we will discuss all of those but our specific meeting with all of those entities was specific to grass but we will address with the railroads the culverts and of course any of the state highways as well where culverts are an issue and we have some as well that we have to work on especially after the storm where we were having some problems."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I know it sounds like we are beating a dead horse again but the railroad is having problems all the way up and down and I am talking about the southernmost railroad. It seems like especially in the DuPont area over there it floods like nothing nice and it stops right there by the railroad tracks and I think maybe those guys when they come down here in their suits and ties take them on a walk down their tracks to look at these culverts and please bring them

to Garyville also. It is bad in Garyville."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually he was specifically here to discuss Garyville."

Councilman Gauff stated, "Mr. Boucvalt, Mrs. Rodgers and myself have written letters to them about those in particular about those culverts and crossings to give us help and this has been 6 or 7 months and they really have not accommodated us at all. So we do want to sit in on those meetings and I know you said you will accommodate us but a lot of us have a lot of areas that we would like look at."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well I am glad to see that there seems to be a little movement in terms of trying to come together and discuss some of these issues. Is there any time table? We aren't going to be waiting a year or so did they give you any indication as to how soon this will happen?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually I met with the sheriff earlier this week, my staff was at a meeting with DOTD they were late coming in from that meeting so they have already made that contact. I have already contacted the levee district regarding our levee production. Mr. Dinning has been here twice and met with us I think he may have missed a meeting with some of the council members and is currently requesting another meeting with you all. I know Jackie said she received the information. He was in town trying to meet with the council so I would encourage you to follow up there but in this overall meeting we will be glad to have a representative there and cover as many things as possible but Mr. Dinning has been here twice."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I would appreciate it if he can let us know a little ahead of time."

Natalie Robottom stated, "No we scheduled a meeting and you guys weren't able to make it, then he came back and asked to forward his contact information for you all to schedule a meeting with him and I don't think that has been done yet."

Councilman Smith stated, "I know this has been an issue that I brought up quite a while back so I have been waiting on the railroad to get back with me so I took the bull by the horns and I am meeting with one of the representatives Saturday from CN. I met a Mr. Gomez from IGS railroad his office happened to be right down by the shipyards at Avondale so those things if anybody wants their contact information I would be more than happy to share it. I shared some of the information with Jackie and I do have a scheduled meeting with the CN representative Saturday about some of the problems that we are having with flooding, culverts and all those other things. I couldn't keep waiting for them to get in touch with us so I made some contacts myself and if you need that information I would be more than happy to share it."

Natalie Robottom stated, "If you could get us that second contact information I only have the one for CN?"

### Jaclyn Hotard - Planning & Zoning - Permits

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I know Angelic wasn't able to attend tonight but we had some dialogue and I wanted her to just give a little bit of information. I know that is says that no permits is required if the water didn't go over the receptacles but some of the calls that I received were from residents that were told you needed a permit and they didn't have water over their receptacles and I think where the misunderstanding came in was that if you are replacing an AC unit you need a permit for that. If you didn't have water over the receptacles but you are doing anything different to your plumbing aside from just replacing a fixture you need a plumbing permit. If you are moving a light switch or something like that you need an electrical permit. So I wanted her to just touch on some of that because I think people were just using that guideline to say if I didn't have water over the receptacle I don't need a permit as was stated by Planning and Zoning in here but really if they are replacing an AC unit which I know a lot of people who had some salt water intrusion on their units are going to have to replace them they need a mechanical permit for that. So I will leave it on the agenda just so that she can explain that a little bit more when she is able to return or if you have something that you want to add to it."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually it is on the next item but we do have a representative from South Central here and she did discuss with me what your concerns were and they were addressed previously. You may need a permit for other types of work that you are doing. What we were clearly stating was that if you were doing cosmetic work than no you don't need a permit if it didn't recede you receptacle, if it did you need a permit but also for other types of work that you are doing a permit may be required. So as previously mentioned we suggested that they make contact with the office but a number of people have moved forward with their homes without a permit which is a good thing about 70% of them didn't require one but there are going to be some like you said whose AC might have been damaged and something that they need to replace, those require an additional permit and I will allow Mr. Witch to address those which is what South Central handles but it is not a blanket which is why it is very difficult to respond to questions at a general meeting each applicant is individual and you have to kind of know their individual case to know whether or not they need a full permit or a partial permit and I know in speaking with Ms. Sutherland she indicated we attempted to bundle some of the permits because it was cheaper to do it as a bundle than individual so you may have a full permit but only need the piece for electrical so there are quite a few things that their office is doing to make it easier on our residents but I can't speak to all of that and I apologize Ms. Sutherland planned to come and got really sick right before but as I said a representative from SCP is here to further discuss it but I will just repeat what we said last time there is no permit required if the water didn't go over your receptacle, if it did you require a permit. If there are other items or repairs that you are making that may require a permit because of its nature the other items that are typically permitted through our office but if you don't mind I will allow the representative to address your next set of questions."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "No problem and those were some of the things that I wanted to talk about the things that were generalized. IF someone is replacing an AC that isn't really on a case by case basis you need a permit no matter where you AC is or where your subdivision is. So that is what I really wanted to get out there some of those items that don't need to be addressed on a case by case basis that we do know you will need a permit for those items just to get those out there so that people will understand and anyone who does call I send them to P&Z but I think some of those items that do apply to everyone we just need to get that information out there."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And I can't answer any more specific so Mr. Witch would be able to address the specific kinds of permits that are available through the office and probably Angelic would have been able to but those are just the two that she discussed with me but that is not to say that is the only two that is the only two I remember her mentioning."

### **Jaclyn Hotard - South Central Planning - Permits**

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "He is here and I spoke with Kevin Belanger just to again fill in the residents as to what your role is or anything that you want to share with them that will help them along the way as president Robottom said a lot of people have completed the process but we still have some people out there that are in between and uncertain so anything that you can provide to just clear up what it is your office provides and touch on some of those permitting issues."

Michael Witch, South Central Planning, stated, "Mrs. Robottom was right on the money with what requires a permit and what doesn't. There was some question initially with the AC units because a lot of them were still working and people didn't know if they were going to have to replace them or not. Our advice to them was that if they did plan on replacing them even not right now was to get the permit because the fees were significantly reduced and the permit is good for a period of time so rather than coming in 6 months from now they might have to pay more for the permit at that time."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "What is the period of time that the permit is good for?"

Michael Witch stated, "You have 6 months to begin work and I think you have a year as long as you begin work within the 6 months. Those are required and I will tell you we have gotten some odd phone calls at the office. For a house that got 18-24 inches of water there should be very little if any plumbing work to do other than changing fixtures and for that you don't need a permit but some are being miss-lead out there and being told they have to change all of the plumbing in the home and so forth. I don't know how we combat that other than giving them accurate answers when they do call but the permits are combined, normally you would need individual permits for plumbing, electrical, mechanical and so forth and they have all been combined into one permit at a fee that is much less than what the permit would be for just one of those. As far as inspections go on the electrical we have to inspect that prior to closing the walls and before you put the installation in. We don't have to look at your insulation there was confusion with that people were calling back for another inspection and that was holding them from

closing their walls up. We don't have to look at the installation but we do want to just make sure your electrical has been installed properly before you close the walls and then we will do a final inspection at the end just at that point we can make sure that everything is working properly and that helps you identify areas because there are things that we use to test all the receptacles to make sure they are working like they are supposed to be. Again there has been some misleading information out there that you have to rewire the entire home that isn't true either there are a few different options out there. If your water got just to the receptacles and no higher than really all you have to do is change your receptacles. If it got higher you have two options you can either choose to cut the wire at a level where it didn't get wet and move your receptacles up which may be an option is you only have to move it up a little bit, maybe not so much if you have to put them at 4 feet because it would look pretty bad so if you don't want to do that your other option is to put junction boxes in the attic and just run new wires in the walls but you don't have to run new wires throughout the home. Again there has been some information out there telling people that they have to rewire their entire home which could be quite costly especially if you only got 4 feet. So that isn't a requirement. I would just like to clear that up."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Do you know as far as AC units if people are just changing the condensing unit do they still need a permit for that or is it only if they are doing a total replacement of the unit?"

Michael Witch stated, "You are supposed to have one for the condensing unit and mainly that has to do with the electrical portion that is associated with that in changing the copper and those aspects of it. We do recommend that you have one. Nobody is going to hunt you down if you didn't get one but for your protection we recommend that you get one just so that we can take a look at it."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Normally changing an AC or condensing unit do you need a permit for that? If mine goes out in 5 years I need a permit?"

Michael Witch stated, "Yes sir now I will say compliance with that requirement is lacking quite a bit, across the whole region just because normally it is a one day job somebody comes in and takes care of it and you are done."

Councilman Snyder asked, "You said it isn't a requirement if I decide to raise my outlets I can, if I decide to leave them at 12-16 inches which is I think the norm or 18 inches that is okay also?"

Michael Witch stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well that was one of the issues I had on the agenda because one of my constituents did call me and said he didn't get his permit because he had his receptacles too low but that is the way they were when the house was built and he wasn't granted his permit and I was wondering well why it is because until he raises his outlets and now his house looks ill formed."

Michael Witch stated, "I am not sure why he wouldn't have been granted

*a permit, now we don't grant the permits we just do the inspections but there is no code requirements you can have your receptacles at 6 inches if you want or you can have them at 4 feet. Now the industry standard you are right is 16-18 inches which you normally see them at but that isn't a requirement."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "What is this board that we go by? This IB international board of codes or something like that?"*

*Michael Witch stated, "The international building codes. For the electrical it is governed by the National Electric Codes."*

*Councilman Gauff stated, "I would think that this would be one of the instances where we should get that residents names and that would be one of the specific here."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "That is why I have it on the agenda to get some information here."*

*Councilman Gauff stated, "No that is what I am saying so maybe we can get specific information for that person."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "For what and to do what?"*

*Councilman Gauff stated, "For the person that was denied."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "Well he already raised all of the outlets throughout his house."*

*Councilman Gauff stated, "All I was saying was that we could see why and try to help him out but if he has already raised them then no I was just trying to help him."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "Good I will get back with him. Thank you."*

*Councilwoman Millet asked, "Now when you are talking about plumbing fixtures we are talking showers, toilets and tubs?"*

*Michael Witch stated, "Yes."*

*Councilwoman Millet asked, "Okay they do not have to be replaced?"*

*Michael Witch stated, "You can replace them if you so choose but it doesn't require a permit. Even under normal circumstances if you were replacing a tub or a toilet or a sink that doesn't require a permit."*

*Councilwoman Millet asked, "But in your opinion, as a result of this storm, do they need to be replaced or are they being led down the wrong trail?"*

*Michael Witch stated, "Well it depends on the materials that they are made out of and whether or not they are going to show evidence of corrosion and stuff, if they are corroded they are going to become unsightly obviously but there is no permit required to replace those."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "The information that we are gathering is very important and also the other owners that are out there the outlets*

*really don't make a difference according to what you are saying so no one should be denied a permit based upon that?"*

*Michael Witch stated, "No sir not because of the height of the receptacles. If they were denied it is likely for some other reason I would think."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "Okay one other thing, a personal question, south central goes out and inspects houses for our parish and we pay a fee for that right?"*

*Michael Witch stated, "Yes sir we get a portion of the permit fee."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "So what I am saying is when we make this request for you to go out do we give you a time table as to how soon we need this information or do you just schedule it according to how your schedule is?"*

*Michael Witch stated, "No sir we have made a commitment to the parish since the very beginning. Actually the initial commitment was to do inspections within 48 hours but what actually happens is if you call before 2:00 PM we guarantee we do it that day. So in most cases we are there the same day worst case scenario is the next morning."*

*Councilman Smith stated, "I just wanted to clear something for Mr. Snyder, the electrical stuff is actually governed by the NEC, national electric code, so that is the law that we have to follow when we are doing electrical work on that."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "Well let me clear this up with you. I called planning and zoning and I wrote a letter and I got a letter back we are governed by the International Board of Codes. I went on line they gave me the website and I looked at a couple of things and it said 12-16 inches is the recommendation for the houses. In this area we mostly put them at 18 inches. So I was just following what I was told to do."*

*Councilman Smith stated, "I agree. I was just clearing up that we are actually governed by the NEC."*

#### **Jaclyn Hotard - Debris removal**

*Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I had a couple of issues and I spoke with Brian Nunes and we got them worked out so I would like to remove this item."*

#### **Jaclyn Hotard/Marvin Perrilloux - Planning & Zoning - abandoned flooded houses**

*Councilwoman Hotard stated, "A couple of weeks ago I had contacted our P&Z director just to ask her about the ordinance that we currently have to address this situation. I know it is a concern for some of the residents right now. We do have some abandoned homes that were flooded that haven't been gutted out that are doing to be a nuisance and a potential safety hazard and it is a real concern. I know that I have been in contact with Division B folks to put a list together and we have been sending them over to code enforcement. So I wanted to just get something from P&Z to understand what the process is and how we are*

going to handle it and Ms. Sutherland did say that she felt that our ordinances had enough teeth in them and that we didn't need to make any amendments to it. So I really just wanted her to touch on that. I know she isn't here we can carry it over unless you have some information but what are we going to do with the homes that have been flooded, that haven't been gutted that are going to cause a safety problem? Do we have something in place?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We actually discussed this with the FEMA representatives as well as some of the council members who brought it up before now. Before it is still early in the disaster it is really premature to make decisions on some of those homes but we did meet with the assessor who put together and provided us a list of bank owned homes. Code enforcement is actually going out into the neighborhoods and identifying some of the abandoned or what appears to be abandoned homes and the community relations team through FEMA as they are going out into the neighborhoods they are pulling together a list of those homes. Now we are going to have to verify that they are actually bank owned or abandoned but at this time we are just trying to get a list so we will know which ones to follow up on but because it is very early and there is not a whole lot of capacity in St. John for our residents to be in if they can't be in their homes it is very difficult to tell right now if they are truly abandoned or if they just haven't been able to come back and make those changes. We are encouraging as much as possible people to begin that work but understanding that there are a lot of people going through a lot of things right now and we are attempting to give them that time to make those decisions but at this point we are trying to compile a good list by neighborhood for properties to follow up on but if it is bank owned then they are going to be responsible for that. The assessor's office is also working with us in trying to identify some that may be problematic and of course we are going to have to look at the ones that may have been problematic before the storm. So the list that you are getting we are sending them all to Angelic because I think Rhonda had gotten some from the assessor and of course FEMA is providing Angelic's office with what she has so we are trying to put together a cumulative list."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "And those are the properties that I am really concerned with especially the ones that were abandoned or bank owned blighted properties before the storm so we know that no one was living in the home. Of course some of our residents haven't had the opportunity or the means to gut the home and get back in that is a different situation but a lot of the ones that I did send to code enforcement and that we have looked at were already abandoned before the storm for several months. A lot of the properties were ones that the parish was already keeping up and cutting grass and these types of things and they were just sitting there so those were most of our concerns."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And it could be incomplete because what we had was what the assessor gave us but it was about 40 homes on that list but we have been cautioned about entering and interfering with private property at this point especially going into those homes, especially bank owned properties. It is their responsibility. We have to follow up with them to make sure they take care of their responsibility but we need a good complete list because again some are going to be bank owned, some are not and we will have to decide and

present to you the information that we have and what their responsibilities are and if there are any changes necessary the council would have to make those."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "At what point do we, if it is a bank owned home and it has had 2 feet of water and the mold is growing, the weeds and grass is growing at what point are we going to intervene and say okay this is now a safety concern for the residents is out weighing all of the other issues?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I'm sure your legal counsel and ours will advise us in terms of that process as with anything we do with private property there is going to be a process. There will be a notification process and probably a court decision process so it won't be as simple especially not knowing and not having a long period of time involved in this but we will work through it. We had already started gathering that list but it is a little premature right now to make a decision on some of those."

Councilman Madere stated, "I'm glad that this was brought up. I believe Ms. Hotard touched on it but we may have to come up with an ordinance that will put a little bit more bite into what we have in P&Z because I know we are talking about the houses that just recently have been flooded and might become abandoned and we have to go through this long process. If they have to go through the same process that I am going through with homes that have been abandoned for the last 5-10 years we are not going to remove very many homes. So we have to revisit and try to put a little bite into it because I have been in this seat 7 months and I inherited a lot of abandoned homes in my district and 7 months and 5 years or longer not one has been removed. So that is the problem that I am having. If this process is going to take that long for the houses that just became abandoned or flooded, we are going to have a parish with a lot of abandoned homes. So we have to revisit this and try to put a little bit more bite and track these people down. I met a resident in Wal-Mart this afternoon, down 31<sup>st</sup> Street and he told me personally that the people are tired of that house back there and they want it removed and I personally put that in at the beginning when I entered office and there is no progress and the owner of that home doesn't even live in the parish. So if we are going to have that type of thing going on how are we going to move and get rid of some of these abandoned homes if we can't get rid of some of the ones that have been here for years?"

Councilwoman Millet asked, "The properties that you are talking about that you identified as bank owned, have we contacted the banks to let them know that the houses were flooded and that they need immediate assistance?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "No actually we have not. We just got the list on Friday. The assessor was extremely busy doing some of the re-assessing and the issues he is dealing with but we did receive the list, sorted out the 40 and he just has a list of the properties that are bank owned. So now we are going to have to go through and make sure that they were damaged. So the list has not been filtered through yet."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Code enforcement also has a list of properties that we have been maintaining."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And FEMA has been doing door to door visits and I know some of you are requesting that list."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I understand that it takes a process but it has been quite some time and these are the same properties we have been billing for grass cutting so obviously they are abandoned so the process is still the same these people don't know the houses are flooded."

Natalie Robottom stated, "For some of them that is the case but not all of them."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "The ones that that is the case are we making any attempt to notify them?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We are actually trying to compile a list. So if you have some additional ones to add to that list I think code enforcement is dealing with that."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "And when you get the list what are we going to do with the list?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Whatever the ordinance requires whether it is notification or cutting the grass whatever the process legally allows is what we will do."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Well a phone call to the banks or the people that have it or the contact information that we have letting them know that this particular house was flooded we need you to fix it or take care of it would solve all this waiting and compiling and just moving forward is my request."

Natalie Robottom stated, "That is our plan. We didn't get the list just to keep it. We have to identify the properties and we can separate them by banks that own them and identify whether the list that we got from the assessor's office didn't indicate which ones were flooded. It was just a list of bank owned properties. So now we have to pair that up with the areas and identify the flooded homes but the goal is to notify and contact the banks to find out what is their process. What can we expect in terms of time lines and to have them follow up because there are processes in place for that? We also have properties that have been abandoned that we are following up on and then there are going to be some that were just flooded that were not abandoned. So we are utilizing the resources we have available to us. Code enforcement is helping. Our community relations individuals who are out in the neighborhoods are helping us identify those. It is a collaborated effort but our goal is to have a process to take care of that just as we did a private property request and had it obtained to remove debris, we asked this question already and we were advised to stay out of those houses right now but there are processes that can take place. People are responsible and we need to follow those processes so that is something that the housing task force as well as our health and human services director and P&Z are working on it to try to address that as a problem."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "My question is nothing is going to be done

until the list is completed? Are you going to work on the ones you already know about or are you going to wait until your list is complete before you start working on the ones you already know about?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We are already working on them."

Councilman Smith asked, "Every two weeks Ms. Sutherland gives us a list and I appreciate that list but some of these properties have been in the court system for about 5 years and somebody in the court system needs to answer us as to what is going on - why is this taking so long? If we could have somebody from the judicial system at our next meeting to answer us and tell us why it takes so long for this process to happen and it is just sitting there in the court system and nobody is doing anything and I would appreciate if you could arrange that for us to have someone from the judicial system here to basically answer some of the questions and tell us why these things have been sitting there for over five years and we can't tear them down."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I will pass that on to Ms. Sutherland who actually handles the court cases and obviously some of them will have reasons as to if they are acceptable or not but there are some rights that property owners have and we are not in a position to violate those but possibly there are some answers that the court systems can provide."

Vercell Fiffie, Legal Counsel, stated, "As far as the adjudicated properties process that is a process that is being handled by the Broussard & Baloney Law Firm so I would not be privy to that process. In regards to the abandoned properties list, I haven't seen a list and without having the list in front of me. Ms. Sutherland handles a lot of the blighted property herself and when we are involved in it they file a lawsuit, once the people are notified and if they are found it can go into litigation and once it is in litigation it can be drawn out for years and it is an undeterminable time in that instance and that could be the issue with some of these."

Councilman Gauff stated, "We are just looking for some sort of answers as to why our list is getting thicker and we were thinking at some point in time some of these would come off."

Councilman Madere stated, "You said it could take years. The properties that I am talking about have already been through that process. We are getting ready to go into decades. We are way past 10 or 15 years. When I took office one of the properties had been on the DA's desk since 2008 and we only got movement when I confronted him about that property. I understand the hands of justice travel slow but in this case it seems to stop. It just stops. In my districts the residents have nice homes and next to them they have a house that has been abandoned for 10-15 years, grass all around it, it is an eyesore and a problem for crack heads and everything else. These people want these houses removed and all this waiting and process I think the people in my district have been through this process three times. Now it is time for P&Z if we need to put more bite to our laws then we do it and I will say it again the P&Z laws when it comes to abandoned houses is like a pit bull that does all the barking and doesn't have any teeth in his mouth because we have no bite to what we do. There is nothing that can make these houses go away. Now I am here for four years, I would

hope in four years some of these abandoned homes that have been here for 15-20 years that are an eyesore in the district that I am representing we can get rid of them some kind of a way."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "There is an emergency declaration I know I have had a house torn down in my district, I believe Mrs. Robottom was the CAO at that time, so what authority do we have because I know it has been done before where we declared it was an emergency and in danger of collapsing or cause this problem with the neighbors. So what can we do as far as with some of these properties here that may be beyond the process to declare them emergencies and go ahead and step in like we have done before in the past?"

Vercell Fiffie stated, "I think the property that you may be talking about probably was an extreme situation and that is something that the law would actually not favor for us to do unless there is a justifiable reason and I don't mean that someone says I think it needs to come down. It has to be legally justifiable and a lot of times we have to go to the court to get that justification. It is not a process that we are able to internally just say it needs to come down tomorrow."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Do we have someone in your office or I guess in P&Z that is looking at some of these properties that may have been blighted or abandoned for 10-15 years that are extreme? Do we have someone that is working on those extreme cases to see if they can be declared emergencies and have either repairs done to them or be demolished?"

Vercell Fiffie stated, "If it is in P&Z I would not know and legal isn't involved in the process until after P&Z has made their determination."

Councilman Madere stated, "Once again with the issues about the abandoned homes that is why I asked that question to the gentleman from South Central as when we send someone out there and we pay for them to go out there and check these abandoned homes and they issue an opinion that it cannot be restored or repaired and we go to court and we don't have this paper, then we are going to court not prepared and that happened this year and a home that should have been torn down was not torn down because we didn't have that information. So that was a mistake that P&Z made. I accepted that and we are dealing with that but we don't want these types of things to happen again. Now some of the homes that you are talking about are in dire condition and about ready to fall down and it is a problem. I am not waiting for mother nature to destroy these homes and that is what is going to happen they have been sitting there for so long mother nature is basically tearing them down for us. So I am looking for something, another ordinance maybe, that after a period of time and I am not in the process of taking anyone's homes in fact I will help I will help you rebuild if it is possible but if it has been deemed that it is un-repairable and is on the verge of falling down then we need to have something in place that we can move and get rid of these homes in these areas."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Some of these properties and homes I am sure they are having problems making contact with the owners sometimes there are plenty people involved and they haven't done a succession in two generations. What can we do when we can't contact anybody?"

Vercell Fiffie stated, "In that situation if it is a home that needs to be knocked down when we go through the court process the process would include trying to identify or inform any heirs to the deceased person."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Also they have been cutting grass on some of these properties and putting liens on them and it seems like some of these by now, if people are not claiming them and they live in California or something and are just leaving it a mess, we need to come up with an ordinance like Mr. Madere said, we need something that is going to work fast and get the job done right because we have a lot of blighted houses in the parish that needs to be removed sooner than later."

Councilman Wright stated, "I really think clearly that we have a problem over all even pre-Isaac and post-Isaac. So I guess my question to you for legal or administration is where is the problem at? Do we see it in enforcement? Do we see it in the process or do we see it in the teeth in the actual law? Where do you think the problem lies because obviously we have had one for 10 to 20 years?"

Vercell Fiffie stated, "I would not answer that question right now without actually having looked at the process just off the top of my head. I think that would be an uninformed answer."

Councilman Wright asked, "Can maybe somebody from administration or legal get back to us on that because clearly we know there is a problem so we just want to get a resolution to that problem. Can somebody with administration or legal work on that?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We will be glad too and I think Angelic actually has some data on the number of homes that have been demolished and there has been an increase over the last number of years. As we have discussed each case is individual some of it is property owners and some of it is in litigation. There are a number of processes that are in the existing ordinance and obviously that is where the council has the strength if they wanted to change the ordinances but property owners have rights and if you write a violation they have an opportunity to board them up and make them safe and do some things and they don't always follow through on what they say but you have to give them the benefit of the doubt generally when the court rules giving them that opportunity to do the things they say and then there has to be a time period that you give them an amount of time and frequently they don't follow through and you are back doing the same thing however we can't solve the individual cases tonight. I am sure the P&Z office has some documentation on the number of homes that have been demolished since 2010 and definitely since 2012 and it is significant compared to what was demolished. This council or the previous one approved an ordinance to work on adjudicated properties which is what the Broussard & Baloney Firm have which was years of blighted and adjudicated properties that have been problematic for us. That process is moving along but it took a while to get that ordinance in a form that was acceptable and in accordance with the law. So there are a number of things that go into these properties that can't necessarily be answered without addressing a specific property however we are going to work within the law and if those laws change then we will work within those but we will work with our legal counsel and I am sure Jeff has some

history on a lot of what has been going on and we will put together a report for you."

Councilman Wright stated, "I am not looking to take rights away from homeowners but clearly there is a problem and it has been going on for many years in St. John clearly our system isn't perfect but those individual cases are based off of our processes, enforcement and laws. So what I am asking for administration and legal to come to us with a plan or a recommendation on how we can strengthen those laws and put some teeth in to it that way we don't have the same problems we have been having the last 10, 15 or 20 years."

Councilman Smith stated, "I think in our ordinance it says that whoever pays the taxes on that property is responsible for that and Mr. Fiffie says there is a condition that has to exist and I have one here that was sent to the DA's office as a hazardous and unsafe building and was sent to them on April 22, 2009 and the DA's office has not done anything with this so it has been sitting there for that long. That is why I asked if we could have the DA here to try to explain to us why it takes so long. It isn't that our ordinance doesn't have bite to it a lot of these things are sitting here in the DA's office and it looks like that office isn't moving on those situations. We are sitting here fighting and fighting for this and we put it there and then it just sits there and this is one that we declared an unsafe building so it is public safety that is at risk and it has been sitting here for three years."

Councilman Wilson stated, "When we have blighted properties we are paying contractors to go and cut the grass and things of that nature. At one point does it reach that we are paying more than what the property is worth?"

Vercell Fiffie stated, "In reference to blighted properties just because the grass is growing doesn't necessarily mean that the property is blighted. There are criteria's in the ordinance to address that."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Well one way or another something is going to have to happen to get rid of them. If the assessor needs to help us get some of this done but it seems pretty ethical if we are cutting grass and tearing down when we have already spent more than what the property is worth. It is time to get them out. I don't know if we have to go to the state or the federal government but somebody needs to help us."

Councilman Madere stated, "I mentioned this to our parish attorney months ago that I felt like Mr. Wilson if I had some property in St. John Parish and it wasn't close to where I lived I have made the comment before I wouldn't cut it either and I made that comment to him. If the parish is going to cut it for me and they are going to bill me and I went through the process and found a little history on it after 10 years they put a lien on my property but if after ten years they don't renew it then the bill goes away. So if I have a piece of property that I am not going to develop for say another 11 years from now I will just let the parish take care of it for me until I decide to develop it and if the parish don't reapply the lien on my property then I walk away scott free and develop my property and you have cut the grass for me for the previous 10 years. So there is a problem in what

we are doing and we need to figure out how to solve that problem because to tell you the truth if I owned a piece of property I would not cut it for the next 10 years and allow you to put a lien on me and if you do not reinforce that lien I walk away and you took care of my property for the last 10 years. So there is something wrong with this process and we have to straighten it out and it is not just the grass, it is the abandoned homes and everything else and make sure they understand and get this on record I am not trying to take anyone's property. I don't want to take anyone's houses down. If it can be repaired then repair it and put someone in it. I want people to move in. If you are not doing anything with it and it is a blighted home and we are talking about infestation rats, snakes and everything else. So we have to come to some sort of an agreement and get this moving in the right direction because right now it is stagnate. It isn't moving."

**Jaclyn Hotard - Crevasse pumps**

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I spoke with Mr. Nunes today and we are going to get together to discuss this item but you can leave it on the agenda just in case."

**Art Smith - Study Ruddock 3<sup>rd</sup> Well**

The above item was removed at the request of Councilman Smith.

**Art Smith/Lennix Madere - FEMA - Questions regarding getting people back in their homes**

Sandy Coachman, FEMA, commented that they are honored to be here and have a lot of paperwork but was wondering if there were any particular questions or if there were any facts that she could share with us she would be happy to do that. She asked if we wanted a summary on what was being done.

Councilman Smith asked, "I had a young lady that lost her home to Hurricane Isaac. She went through the process and has gone through FEMA and was turned down, I sent her back and she was turned down again. This is a young lady, single mother, four kids that FEMA offered no assistance to. She was renting and they are telling her that they can't give her anything because she didn't own the property, they wouldn't give her a voucher to get into a home and this process that you guys put people through is so lengthy and I understand Katrina messed things up for everybody and that is the basis for your decisions but individuals when they are there and still get slapped down and people are now feeling that FEMA isn't treating them fairly and this is a young lady that really needs a place to stay and still does need a place to stay. She has gone through this process and keeps getting slapped down and I cannot continue to keep telling her to go back because just like any dog if you keep kicking him, he isn't coming back anymore. I don't know the reasoning and some of the funds that are being offered to these people just don't make sense sometimes."

Sandy Coachman stated, "I am sorry for that and I recognize that we cannot help everyone and as our administrator has said and certainly I have to over the 12 years of working with FEMA. We aren't here to make people whole. We are part of the assistance but we are not the whole assistance. For that individual I would like to offer to look at that

individual situation and take a look at that. I cannot address it right now because I don't have all of the situation awareness of what her case is but I can share with you and I want to let you know that our tax dollars, yours and mine and everyone in this parish's federal taxes over 24 million dollars here and that is amazing. We also have had over 5,000 individuals come to the disaster recovery center and in assistance with the parish and with HUD and other voluntary agencies we are part of the solution, we are not the whole solution but I do want to take a look at her situation one more time and see if there is something we can do. We cannot make you entirely whole but based on the Stafford Act and the programs that we are allowed to administer we do try to find ways to say yes. I pledge to you I will look at her situation one more time."

Councilman Smith stated, "These individuals aren't asking to be made whole again they are asking for assistance or that helping hand to get back on their feet so that they can provide for themselves. If you have a person that has been knocked to the ground and they are raising their hand for help and we are slapping them and saying put your hand down especially when they see other people that don't really need the help that are getting it."

Sandy Coachman stated, "We have been able to help."

Councilwoman Hotard excused herself from the meeting at 7:51 PM

Councilman Smith stated, "I am not debating that you have given help. Those were the individual things and you guys have done a great job with the people you have helped but there are still people out there that need help and feel that they are not getting it and fell like they are being pushed away."

Sandy Coachman stated, "I am really sorry they feel that way because we really are trying to partner with the other helping agencies to find a solution and I want to help with that I really do but I have to follow the laws."

Councilman Smith stated, "I can see the sincerity in your face and in your voice but I will get that information to you after this meeting is over and we can take a look at it."

Sandy Coachman stated, "We will see how we can help her. It may not be FEMA that can help her but maybe some of the other agencies can help her."

Councilman Madere stated, "I understand exactly the situation that you are in as far as the process you have to follow in order to help these individuals and the process that the federal government has in place sometimes the people like Mr. Smith is talking about fall through the cracks and they are not able to be helped and it isn't going to happen tonight but the federal government needs to revisit what they consider as help. Now me and Mr. Perrilloux went and met with the people at FEMA and their idea of help is safe, secure and sanitized as far as getting homes back together. I do believe a lot of individuals that had the flood happen to them if they knew in advance some of the things that they threw out of their homes that was wet they wouldn't have gotten rid of because I asked specifically if an individual has solid wood

*cabinets in their kitchen and 3-5 inches of water in their home and they had to rip the cabinets out I asked the representative from FEMA will their cabinets be replaced and she said yes but it wouldn't be solid wood, it would be fabricated cabinets, I think some of these residents probably would have taken the chance that maybe the water wouldn't have buckled their houses that bad. I saw some really nice furniture that was put out on the lawn with the thought that FEMA was going to replace these things like they did for Katrina but I know it is a different situation and I understand like you said it was 24 million dollars and that is a lot of money but we really could use 44 million dollars to help everyone out."*

*Sandy Coachman stated, "I am very proud of your community. I have been doing this for quite a while now and I am just amazed at how much money we have on the street, how many folks have rolled up their sleeves and helped themselves and the resilience in this community is at the top 1% of what I have seen in all of the disasters that I have worked over the last 12 years and I have been amazed and I shared that with the president on many occasions that we need to capture some of the techniques that you all used to have this success so quickly."*

**Art Smith - Elevation requirements post flood**

Councilman Smith asked that we remove this item.

**Art Smith - Comcast - West Bank Internet Service**

Councilman Smith asked that this item be carried over due to the fact that Comcast couldn't be present at the meeting.

**Larry Snyder - Planning & Zoning - re-build requirements**

Councilman Snyder asked that this item be removed he received his answer earlier.

**Lucien Gauff - Update on Annex Drive in Reserve**

Councilman Gauff commented that this item has been resolved.

**Lennix Madere - Update on drainage in District III**

Councilman Madere commented that he spoke with Mr. Nunes today on the drainage issues throughout the area and he met with some constituents in Scarlett Oaks Subdivision is having problems with drainage and if that could please be looked into and hopefully we can find out what's going on.

*Brian Nunes stated, "That is something that I can definitely look into. I am not sure exactly what project you are talking about and what I am familiar with was designed to protect that area but if there was a separate project I would like to look into it and sit down with you and talk about all of the issues."*

**Lennix Madere - Update on Housing Authority sewerage issue in Reserve**

Councilman Madere stated, *"Basically what I want to know with this is the residents in housing do pay taxes I just want to know what service*

does the parish provide to the housing authority? Is it water and sewerage and what responsibility do we have as far as up keeping those things?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Specific to your question it is private property and the equipment is owned by the housing authority. It is my understanding that in a previous administration an agreement was made that our staff would make repairs to the lift station that was damaged after the hurricane and that was done. There was a request to do some additional work but because it was not our system we had not designed it and didn't have all the drawings and there was a request for that and especially after the storm when there was a concern that the lines could have been plugged because of the lift station failing our office was open to that but in regards to all of the services I know they purchase water from us and maybe Mr. Smith can tell you a little more about their governing structure and how that works."

Councilman Smith stated, "This is a federal project. We purchase water from the parish. We have our own maintenance and utility departments and maintain all the equipment in there but periodically we do turn to the parish for assistance in helping us unplug that sewerage and they have been very cooperative in helping us with that but most of the systems within the housing authority are very antiquated, they have terra cotta piping in there and those are the things that we are trying to replace and that is part of that silver lining that came from the storm that we are working with FEMA and they are going to assist us in doing a lot of the repairs and updating of the facilities in there. So we were able to get some money from FEMA and they are assisting us with that and everyone is very welcome to come to the next meeting which is the third Monday and you guys can see the presentation that FEMA is going to make to us. The sewerage is always a problem and we have to call the parish for assistance quite often."

Councilman Madere stated, "Thank you for that information. I was just concerned at how quickly we were responding and I hear what you are saying and hopefully like you said something that turned out bad for a lot of the residents may end up benefitting the housing authority."

#### **Lennix Madere/Larry Snyder - Creation of a Drainage Department**

Councilman Snyder stated, "I have said it before and I am going to say it one more time that one of our biggest problems here is drainage from one end of the parish to the other end and I think I brought it up some time before and if we don't get a department then maybe we can make it an arm of one of the other departments and that would be dedicated to our drainage and I think that is why we have this on here. This has to be a focus. It can be when it rains we have drainage problems. It has to be a focus all year around by our parish and that is the only way it is going to work. We have too many problems that we can take care of that we are not taking care of. We are just fighting fires and that isn't working. Even if it is a small rain storm we can't get rid of the water. We have pump problems. We have natural drainage problems. We need a part of our government to be focused on just drainage because I guarantee you we could have ten people in that department. I am not saying hire ten people. I am saying look at the other departments and let's borrow some people from the other departments and put them in there and let them focus on drainage and that is the only way we are

going to get anything done. We need to be a little bit more pro-active instead of being re-active. I think that is what we are doing right now just being reactive to the problems and we overload our public works department with all the problems and if we had a someone focused on that then we wouldn't have to do that. It would be the focus of the drainage department. I am a strong component of that. I would rather see a department or an arm of a department focus on that. It doesn't have to be a lot of people but we just have to get this running. We have to make a motion on this, it may not be tonight, we need to talk about it a little bit more but let's get this thing rolling."

Councilman Smith stated, "Very good point Mr. Snyder, a few years back there was a comprehensive drainage study that was done and nothing was ever done with it. If Mr. Nunes would agree to hold some workshops you will see in that study that it addresses a lot of the problems that we are having now and that study was done back in 2000. It actually forecast some of the problems that we are having now and we never fixed the problems that they found 12 years ago. If we could start addressing these problems it would solve a lot of the drainage problems. It is all in there. So I am asking Mr. Nunes would you mind assisting us and having a workshop with us so that we can address those problems and get them out in the open so that people can understand where these things are the study if very in depth and very good."

Brian Nunes stated, "I would be happy to get with Jackie to get your schedules so that we can set something up or we can do it at different times. I have no problem going through that and explaining the master drainage plan to you all."

#### **Lennix Madere - Update on Senior Citizen Center re-opening**

Councilman Madere stated, "I was informed that the building is being taken care of at this particular time. They didn't give me the exact date when they are scheduled to re-open but I put this on the agenda because I attended a meeting for the Senior Citizens and I will tell you it was quite enjoyable to sit at that meeting and to discuss a lot of things with them and to see how important this building is to them and they want to get back and I was a little shocked that we hadn't been moving faster but I know there were a lot of other issues going on but I am glad to know that as we speak right now they are closing in on the process of re-opening it."

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Theresa Rodgers - Authorization to enter into revised Intergovernmental Agreement between the Pontchartrain Levee District and St. John the Baptist Parish for use of the Mississippi River Levee Servitude for the Multi-Use Path**

Theresa Rodgers stated, "The amended agreement was requested by the Levee District to add a provision for maintenance of the bike/pedestrian path. The Levee District has agreed to perform this work while the parish focuses on hurricane recovery efforts and works

*to develop a maintenance plan. Administration requests approval."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to enter into revised Intergovernmental Agreement between the Pontchartrain Levee District and St. John the Baptist Parish for use of the Mississippi River Levee Servitude for the Multi-Use Path. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

**Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R12-32 - A Resolution to request that President Barack Obama and the United States Congress expedite funding and construction of a Hurricane Protection Levee for St. John the Baptist Parish**

*Natalie Robottom stated, "Obviously as we try to recover prevention is a pretty big part of what we desire understanding that the levee has been approved since 1971 for some time now, the study has been going on since 1985 and our meeting with the president as well as the congressional delegation and senators our goal is to expedite as they did in New Orleans. There is no need for any more studies. We see the areas that are protected and how they performed and our vulnerabilities were exposed during the last storm. Our request is, as well as our neighboring parishes, is to expedite that process and I know the council is 100% behind this so I am requesting your approval."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Wilson seconded the motion to approve Resolution R12-32. A Resolution to request that President Barack Obama and the United States Congress expedite funding and construction of a Hurricane Protection Levee for St. John the Baptist Parish. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

**MOTION:** Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Wilson seconded the motion to suspend the rules to allow the administration to present resolution R12-33. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

**Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R12-33 - A Resolution imploring that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters fund, install, and maintain an accurate system of real time gauges and storm surge measurement devices in the Lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas Basins**

*Natalie Robottom stated, "Again going on with the first resolution we have continued to meet and discuss this and basically in discussions with the Corp we have found that there are discrepancies and concerns about some of the gauges that provide us the information that allows us to make decisions. In combination with some of our neighboring parishes we are asking that the Corp take charge of this project and set up the appropriate gauges that will provide us with the information necessary to make good decisions."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution R12-33. A Resolution imploring that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters fund, install, and maintain an accurate system of real time gauges and storm surge measurement devices in the Lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas Basins. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good Evening, Although we had limited resources during the storm as a result of power outages, St. John has two resources that were not affected and are accessible on cell phone in which many of our residents accessed. We would like to encourage more of our residents to begin accessing our resources more often for up to date information. Currently the St. John Parish Facebook page has 2,437 likes (5,000 max) - increase in approximately 2000 since August 16. During the peak of the storm over 3,000 people were talking about St. John on Facebook which reached 65,051 people. Our website has over 1300 people signed up to receive News Releases. Since August 26 approximately 425 have signed up to receive news releases. Between August 26 and today 177,727 have visited the website and 413,287 pages have been viewed. Currently between 900-1600 visit our page on a daily basis. FirstCall - 21,249 landlines and 920 registrations are geocoded in the FirstCall system. We are asking our residents to please visit [sjbparish.com](http://sjbparish.com) and sign up for FirstCall. This system is used during an emergency and we would like to have our residents receive messages to their emails and cell-phones. An option to receive weather updates is also available. Residents with elderly parents who may not have cell phone access or internet are also asked to register their numbers for their parents to be included in emergencies that may occur in their neighborhood. Anyone here tonight can visit the table outside the chamber to receive assistance in signing up for First Call. Over 2900 volunteers have worked over 40,000 hours helping residents in St. John recover and rebuild. To date 1793 work orders have been completed through the volunteers in the area. Residents are encouraged to call the volunteer hotline at 985-359-0254 for any assistance that is needed. If a resident has already used this service and still need assistance, please call the hotline back! FEMA's Customer Relations team is distributing flyers with available resources and helpful information to residents in areas impacted by Hurricane Isaac. As of today the CR Team has visited with 137 homeowners of which 131 filled out an informational survey. A packet of information was left near the door step for those who were not home. A total of 1071 homes received information. In an effort to get more of our residents signed up for our emergency notifications and news releases, the Communication's Department will be meeting with Entergy on Thursday to partner on a campaign for Emergency notifications registration. Biddy Basketball registration is now open for boys and girls ages 5 to 14 years old. To register contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 985-652-9569 or visit their office at 200 REGALA Park Road. Participants can also complete the registration form online at [sjbparish.com](http://sjbparish.com). The deadline to register is Wednesday, November 7, 2012. Coaches are also needed for Biddy Basketball. Any coach interested in volunteering to coach a team, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department. RIVER PARISH DAY AT

TULANE: On Saturday, September 29, Tulane University hosted River Parishes Day at the Tulane Football game and over 150 St. John Parish youth participated. Participants enjoyed food, drinks, spacewalks and a football tossing event, and they formed a "human tunnel" on the field for the Tulane football players and staff to enter the field. Thank you to all who participated and a special thank you to those who made this day happen including the St. John Parish School Transportation Department, Marques Colston Charities, local resident Quentin Moore, and NALCO. It was a great day for the children and we hope to make the occurrence routine. I am happy to announce Entergy has provided electricity to the light poles along Belle Terre Blvd interstate interchanges and street lighting is now available in this area. As agreed upon we will be taking over the maintenance of the lights soon. State Fire Marshall Butch Browning has lifted the cease and desist order on outdoor burning in St. John Parish. The burn ban was issued as a precaution and as a result of the large amount of debris in the area. Thank you to all residents and businesses for adherence to the burn ban order. We ask residents to please proceed with caution when burning outdoors and keep a 100 foot area clear from vegetation, buildings and wooded areas. A Senate Insurance Committee Oversight Meeting for residents and businesses who were affected by Hurricane Isaac will be held on October 25 at the St. John Community Center, 2900 Hwy 51 in LaPlace for 6:00 p.m. to discuss the insurance problems that residents and businesses have been facing since Hurricane Isaac. Insurance companies will be invited to attend this meeting and answer questions. More information will be released as it become available. A clothing drive will take place Saturday, October 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 14 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Rising Star Baptist Church, 620 Cardinal Street in LaPlace. All clothing is donated by an out of state agency and will be available for St. John families in need. The 40<sup>th</sup> Judicial Children and youth Services Planning Board will also hold a clothing drive on Saturday, October 13 at River parish Hospital grounds from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Suicide Prevention Information as well as refreshments will be provided. To donate or for questions, please contact Bernell Charles at 504-570-4885. River Parish Hospital will be hosting A Pink Lady Luncheon and Fashion Show on Friday, October 12 at Belle Terre Country Club beginning at noon to benefit the American Cancer Society. To make a reservation, a donation of \$15 is needed. This includes lunch, speaker, and fashion show. For inquiries call 985-653-1644. Night Out Against Crime will be held Tuesday, October 16 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Any residents interested in hosting a night out party should contact the St. John Parish Sheriff's Office at 985-652-7058 or register at [www.stjohnsheriff.com](http://www.stjohnsheriff.com) South Central Louisiana Technical College, River Parish Campus will be holding a career fair on Thursday, October 25 from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. to showcase business partners to students who may be interested in beginning their careers with organizations. Any company interested in participating in the career fair is asked to

contact SCL Technical College Business Office Administration at 985-536-4418."

### **COUNCIL BRIEFS**

Councilman Smith stated, "First I would like to express my condolences to Joe Stockman's family and Felton Collin's family I know them both personally and also condolences to the rest of the people who have loved ones passed. I know it is a horrifying situation some times and it is really hard to get over and speaking from personal experience it takes a long time. I also would like to tell our residents that you have three hours left to register to vote online. So please take advantage of that this is a very important election. Secondly to the residents of district 1, it is I that owes them a thank you for allowing me to serve them. It is an honor to be able to give something back. I am hiring pipe fitters and construction welders and during this depression people are looking for work and I have plenty work available."

Councilman Madere stated, "I would like to express my sympathy to Mr. Felton Collin's family. He was a great educator that was involved in the political field. He did a lot of things for St. John Parish in the time he was here and once again that is another old soldier that is going away. We need to develop a lot of young soldiers to be dedicated old soldiers so that they can live a long prosperous life in St. John Parish and also to the Stockman family they have my deepest sympathy. I would also like to thank Mr. Bryce Fletcher of DRC and Mr. Mitchell whenever I call concerning certain areas they always responded as quickly as possible. I also want to thank Phil Ivey of SAIC whenever I call him he always responds very quickly to us. I also have to wish a Happy Birthday to my granddaughter Ania."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I would like to congratulate all the people that took part in the recreation and for bringing those kids down to the superdome. I understand that Mr. Jones was spear heading this. I want to thank everyone involved in this. I spoke with a Pamela Bates today and she is sponsoring through Walgreens a Cambridge day on October 30<sup>th</sup> in Cambridge at the park from 4-7. She is the manager at Walgreens and they are going to have a lot of stuff for the kids and the families in the Cambridge area. So get ready for that. I did just find out tonight that Joe Stockman had a death in the family and that really kind of took me by surprise. I know Joe very well and have known him for many years. I am sorry for his lost and Mr. Felton Collin's who passed I want to wish his family and his wife my deepest sympathy and I am very sorry for your lost."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "A reminder that the Belle Terre Civic Association is hosting their night out against crime on the 16<sup>th</sup> at the fire station on St. Andrews. Also the LaPlace Rotary club is doing a collection of household goods to be distributed to those in need. All donations of goods can be dropped off at the Pannu building on Belle

*Terre next to the Subway."*

*Councilman Gauff stated, "I would also like to thank Mr. Jones for organizing the opportunity for the kids to get to a Tulane game. This was a wonderful event. Some of the kids had never been to New Orleans and for them to be on the floor of the Superdome and to hear them say wow I could play for Tulane or I would like to play for Tulane those are the dreams and goals that we need to instill in the minds of our kids."*

There was no executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Personnel Matters

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

Cable Franchise Agreement

Any and all pending legal matters

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 9:25 PM, Councilman Wilson moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

/s/Lucien Gauff, III  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary