

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25TH, 2011
CHAIR RONNIE SMITH
VICE CHAIR CHERYL MILLET

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, October 25th, 2011, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Lucien Gauff, III, Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Cheryl Millet, Councilwoman District VII, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilwoman District IV, Darnel C. Usry, Councilwoman District V, Haston Lewis, Councilman District I, Charles Julien, Councilman, District III, Danny Millet, Councilman District II, Steve Lee, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B

ABSENT: Ronnie Smith

Councilwoman Usry led the Prayer. Councilman Millet led the Pledge.

Legal Counsels Kerry Brown and Billy O'Regan were present.

Jaclyn Hotard/Ernest Riley - Presentation - "Blessed to be a Blessing"
- "T.E.E.M. Educational Foundation"

Ernest Riley was present and gave a quick overview of what he is doing. "Blessed to be a blessing" has worked with T.E.E.M. and they have gone out and purchased ten (10) laptops and have developed a little training center for us here in the LaPlace area. We have a state and federal contract where we actually work with people with disabilities. These disabilities can be mental or physical disabilities or they could be have they been incarcerated. So there are different areas that we could actually qualify people for this training. We have a three (3) month training program to help them get a job and then we have a placement after where we actually go out and find a job for them. Now to be a little bit honest I actually cheat. I actually have jobs pretty much waiting for them when they graduate. I actually go out and find industries that are willing to hire them. I work with fortune 500 companies and other companies that are willing to give second chance programs and work with people with disabilities. So I go find them. We work with them. We develop programs for them to hire these people. The training takes approximately three (3) months. After two (2) months of it, if they are doing really well, they should be already working within two months of the training. If they are struggling a little bit they will continue on for the third month. The training is sponsored. It is a state and federal program. We are just entering into a four (4) parish area and this is one of the parishes that we are working in. We are real excited about working with Ms. Eugene. She has been a tremendous help. The training program is online and it is on the

computer. It is live online. The instructors actually teach them live. It is a pretty unique program. We have been doing this for a long time. In 2009 we trained about 130 people. We had a 70% hire rate which is unheard of. I thank you all for letting me put the presentation together. My office is in Slidell. We are working in St. John through Ms. Eugene. There is no age limit, we just don't take minors. They have to be an adult. They have to be willing to go to work. If anyone has questions or is interested they can contact Ms. Eugene. She has all the forms for the qualifying. I will say again this is a state and federal program. It does take us a little time to get people qualified.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes October 12th, 2011, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Homecoming Bonfire - ESJ - 10-27-11 - 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM; Permit Approval - Homecoming Parade - ESJ - 10-28-11 - 12:30 PM

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes October 12th, 2011, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Homecoming Bonfire - ESJ - 10-27-11 - 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM; Permit Approval - Homecoming Parade - ESJ - 10-28-11 - 12:30 PM. The motion passed with 7 yeas, 1 absent (Smith) and 1 abstaining (Lee).

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

There were no ordinances at this time.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

11-45 An ordinance to re-zone Lot D of Emilie Plantation changing the current zoning from an R-1 zoning district to C-1 situated in sections 19 & 20, T-11-S, R-6-E, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (N. Robottom)

11-46 An ordinance amending Sections 14-42(8) of St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, as follows: Non-domestic discharge Permit; user fees (N. Robottom)

11-47 An ordinance granting approval of the revocation of that portion of the right-of-way of Indigo Parkway between Bamboo Road and the rear lines of Lots 23 and 24, Palmetto Lakes, Phase 2 situated in Section 64, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (N. Robottom)

11-48 An ordinance amending St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, Section 14-105(3), permit as follows: Building Code Permit fees (N. Robottom)

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Lee stated, "The finance committee met at 6:00 this evening. We had ten (10) finance items to address most of them being authorization for administration to go out for bids on items and to authorize some additional work to some contractors that we have already approved. With that in mind, I would ask at this time that one of my fellow council members make a motion, on my behalf, to approve the actions taken by the council in the finance committee."

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to grant administration authorization to advertise for health, dental and life insurance for the Office of Fire Services, approved to grant administration authorization to advertise for the annual requirement contract bids for fuel, chemical and inventory supplies, approved to grant administration authorization to renew the Coroner's Office Professional Liability and General Liability Insurance with Lloyds of London, approved to grant administration authorization to execute work authorization No. 17 (revised) with Shread-Kuyrkendall & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$65,976.99 for surveying and basic design engineering services for the Red Bud drainage improvement project, approved to grant administration authorization to amend the contract for Affordable Residential Modifications, LLC to include an additional twelve (12) homes as granted by the Louisiana Office of Community Development Disaster Recovery Unit as part of the Housing Mitigation Program, approved to grant administration authorization to amend the contract for Chatmon Construction, LLC to include an additional thirteen (13) homes as granted by the Louisiana Office of Community Development Disaster Recovery Unit as part of the Housing Mitigation Program, approved to grant administration authorization to amend the contract for Family Homes by Tommy and Sheila, Inc. to include an additional twelve (12) homes as granted by the Louisiana Office of Community Development Disaster Recovery Unit as part of the St. John Housing Mitigation Program, approved to grant administration authorization to amend the contract for E & L Construction and Real Estate, LLC to include an additional thirteen (13) homes as granted by the Louisiana Office of Community Development Disaster Recovery Unit as part of the St. John Housing Mitigation Program, and approved to grant administration authorization to amend the contract with Three Fold Consultants, LLC to perform inspections for the additional fifty (50) homes and for cost assessment services associated with St. John Housing Mitigation Program. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Smith) and 2 abstaining (Lee, Hotard).

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

There were no department/engineer reports.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Charles Julien - Give the parish employees October 31st off as a holiday

Councilman Julien stated, "I just wanted to ask the administration to

consider giving the employees off for the 31st which is Halloween. They have worked really hard and a lot of times we don't have an opportunity to interact with them. I just think that this is an opportunity for us to show some gratitude and I am hoping that administration will allow them to have that day off. Thank you."

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to give the parish employees October 31st off as a holiday.

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I spoke with Mrs. Sutherland about this earlier. I just want to get some clarification. I know this is an administrative thing. I am not sure if the council actually has the authority to do this. So if I could just get clarification from legal and I would like to get a recommendation or an opinion from the administration as well on this."

Billy O'Regan, Legal Counsel, stated, "The council, in my opinion, does not have the authority to declare a holiday for employees. That is a function of the administration."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay then I would like to just get the recommendation from the administration at this time."

Natalie Robottom, Parish President, stated, "Yes obviously it is being proposed as a legal issue. I accept the council's recommendation for it. Obviously the council does not have the authority. However I accept that it was this council's wish to have a holiday. I am not opposed to it. So if you all would like to vote on something I guess it would be a recommendation to us to consider it but obviously the council does not have the authority to grant a holiday for the employees but if you would like to continue on with your motion, it would be a recommendation for us to consider it."

Councilman Julien stated, "I would like to make a motion."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "You already have a motion and a second."

Councilman Julien asked, "Do we have to make another motion?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think his motion was to grant a holiday which you all do not have the authority to do."

Councilman Julien stated, "I withdraw my first motion and I want to make a motion to recommend administration to consider giving the holiday to the employees."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I will withdraw my second and second the new motion."

Councilman Lee stated, "I appreciate Mrs. Robottom addressing the issue. I recognize that it had not been addressed in the administrative report. I recognize it is your authority. Am I to understand you are not in opposition? Is it something you would recommend to us?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually I think there is a combination of things. November 1st is All Saint's Day, which is Tuesday and I think Mr. Julien's point is to extend the weekend through and give the

holiday Monday so that the employees will be off Monday and Tuesday. I accept the council's recommendation."

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to request administration give the parish employees October 31st, Halloween as a holiday. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

Theresa Rodgers - LNO - Authorization to execute a Letter of No Objection for ArcelorMittal (formerly Bayou Steel) for the purpose of rebuilding a portion of the Mississippi River Bank

Theresa Rodgers stated, "Due to the historical Mississippi River Bank levels in the summer of 2011, a portion of the river bank that is critical for continued day-to-day operations at ArcelorMittal needs to be repaired and rebuilt. Administration recommends approval."

Councilwoman Usry asked, "This is at no cost to the parish?"

Theresa Rodgers stated, "No cost to us."

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to execute a Letter of No Objection for ArcelorMittal (formerly Bayou Steel) for the purpose of rebuilding a portion of the Mississippi River Bank. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

Theresa Rodgers - Resolution - R11-48 - A resolution requesting funding under the Louisiana General Aviation Enhancement Program for the St. John the Baptist Parish Airport

Theresa Rodgers stated, "Administration recommends approval of this resolution authorizing execution of a grant application for funding from the Louisiana General Aviation Enhancement Program for the St. John the Baptist Airport. This program provides grant opportunities for infrastructure projects, and, if funded, would provide for construction of a new 4 unit hangar building with 100% funding from LADOTD."

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to accept Resolution R11-48 - A resolution requesting LADOTD Division of Aviation funding for the St. John the Baptist Parish Airport Capital Improvement Program (2012-2016). **WHEREAS**, Title 2 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 provides that cities, towns, parishes, and other political subdivisions of this State may separately or jointly acquire, establish, construct, expand, own, lease, control, equip, improve, maintain, operate, regulate, and police airports and landing fields for the use of aircraft; and, **WHEREAS**, the State of Louisiana, Department of Transportation and Development, Division of Aviation (formerly the LA DOTD-OAPT) is charged by Title 2 with the responsibility for the development of aviation facilities within the State to foster air commerce and to safeguard the interests of those engaged in all phases of the aviation industry and of the general public; and, **WHEREAS**, the St. John the Baptist Parish, hereinafter referred to as "Sponsor", has completed an FAA and DOTD approved Master Plan, Action Plan, and/or Airport Layout Plan which outlines the specific future development of the St. John the Baptist Airport; and, the Sponsor is desirous of implementing a portion of the approved Plan

recommendations which provide for the critically needed improvements as stated below to substantially improve the safety and usability of the Airport, but does not have sufficient funds of its own required for completing the needed improvements; and, **WHEREAS**, the LA DOTD, Division of Aviation is authorized by Title 2 to expend funds for the construction or enlargement of airports for the safety and advancement of aeronautics; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: SECTION I** That the Sponsor does hereby formally request that the LA DOTD, Division of Aviation provide funds required to complete the airport improvements at the St. John the Baptist Airport specifically as described in the Capital Improvement Program Application for State Financial Assistance dated October 25, 2011: **SECTION II** That the said LA DOTD, Division of Aviation be and is hereby assured that all necessary servitudes, rights-of-way, rights of ingress and egress and means thereof will be furnished by the Sponsor and the titles thereto will be valid and indefeasible, and that the Sponsor will assume ownership, financial reporting, and complete responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the airport after completion of said improvement. **SECTION III** That the Sponsor will save and hold the said LA DOTD, Division of Aviation, its officers, agents, and employees harmless from any liability or claim for damages arising out of the project, including death or injuries to third parties including, but not limited to, liability or claim for damages out of the negligence of said LA DOTD, Division of Aviation, its officers, agents, or employees, and expressly agrees to defend any suit of any nature brought against the LA DOTD, Division of Aviation as a result of this project. **SECTION IV** That the Parish President of St. John the Baptist Parish be and is hereby authorized to execute related documents/agreements as required by the rules and regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration and the State of Louisiana and the Clerk is hereby authorized to attest said execution. The motion passed with 7 yeas, 1 absent (Smith) and 1 abstaining (Lee).

Theresa Rodgers - Resolution - R11-49 - A resolution requesting LADOTD Division of Aviation funding for the St. John the Baptist Parish Airport Capital Improvement Program (2012-2016)

Theresa Rodgers stated, "Administration recommends approval of this resolution requesting State funding of the Airport's Capital Improvement Program. The Division of Aviation is authorized by Title 2 to expend funds for the construction and enlargement of airports for safety and advancement of aeronautics. This is a five year program request for 100% FAA and Louisiana Department of Transportation Funding."

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to accept Resolution R11-49 - A resolution requesting funding under the Louisiana General Aviation Enhancement Program for the St. John the Baptist Parish Airport. A resolution for a grant application requesting LDOTD funding for a new 4 Unit Hangar Building. **WHEREAS**, the St. John the Baptist Parish is the Sponsor of the St. John the Baptist Airport, and; **WHEREAS**, the existing hangars on the airfield are filled

to capacity with a documented waiting list for hangar lease space, and; **WHEREAS**, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Division of Aviation under Title 70, Part IX provides grant opportunities for infrastructure projects under the Louisiana General Aviation Enhancement Program, **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the St. John the Baptist Parish Council does hereby support and authorizes the Parish President to sign the Grant Application requesting LDOTD funding for a new 4 Unit Hangar Building. The motion passed with 7 yeas, 1 absent (Smith) and 1 abstaining (Lee).

CORRESPONDANCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Gauff stated, "I would like to take this time to say thank you to all of the voters in Division A, especially Division A, but all the people who came out and voted this past weekend and early voting. Also I would like to say that we need to get out and support the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church which is having a fair at West St. John this weekend. We are supposed to have some nice weather so let's get out and support that."

Councilman Lewis stated, "I would like to congratulate Mrs. Robottom and Ms. Hotard for their victory this Saturday."

Councilman Julien stated, "I would also like to congratulate the president, our new sheriff, council members and everybody that ran. We have early voting. I just want to encourage the people of District III to come out and early vote. I want to congratulate my wife for making it to the second primary. I want to congratulate the worker's on their holiday and thank my president for making it happen. Thank you."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would also like to congratulate President Robottom on her election as well. I would also like to thank the voters of Division B for the overwhelming vote of confidence. I was very humbled, very gracious for your support. I look forward to serving the residents of Division B in a greater capacity. I would also like to thank the residents of District IV. I will miss you guys. I will still represent about half of you. It was definitely an overwhelming and humbling experience by the turnout. I would also like to congratulate all of my fellow council members that have made it into the run-off and that are still going forward. I would like to also commend the administration. The Andouille Festival was held. It was a wonderful weekend and very well attended. The gospel stage was a great addition. I heard nothing but rave reviews about the festival. Thanks again to the voters and I look forward to the next four years."

Councilwoman Usry stated, "I would like to also congratulate Mrs. Robottom and Ms. Hotard on their successful run for office. I found this rose in my car and I want to thank the person who put it there that was very kind of him."

Councilman Lee stated, "As a six term council member, I have seen many campaigns in St. John going back 25 years ago when believe me they were pretty rough and unpleasant and sometimes unprofessional. Politics has changed and part of it that I am happy to see change is the way the candidates go about seeking to get support of their constituents. This was a very smooth, well run campaign by everybody. I follow these things and there just wasn't a lot of dirt out there or a lot of trash

and my comments is that does no one any good. It just belittles us as public servants. I have seen over the last two or three terms an improvement and this one was no different. I already thanked Mrs. Robottom, Mr. Gauff yours was excellent, everybody, Danny, everybody. It is obvious from somebody who has seen the gambit, we are going in the right direction and I want to thank you all. I think the voters really appreciate it to because it just serves no purpose to belittle the people that are willing to give their time, energy and effort to serve the people of St. John Parish. So thank you for running good campaigns and please keep it up because there is still a second to go."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just have one thing to say and I want to echo on all my other council members and say congratulations to Mrs. Robottom, to our council members who are seeking a run off and to Ms. Hotard, who is finished. I want to say thank you to all the residents of District VII. I never did have an opportunity to say thank you for allowing me to go in unopposed. That was a gift from God in my opinion because it is hard to run an election and I know that you are all exhausted from having to run and this time I just sat back and said not me and I thank you all for allowing that to happen. Also since we are having a holiday for Halloween, I would like to say Happy Halloween."

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good evening. I would also like to thank all the voters who turned out, all the supporters, all the individuals who have actually ran races won and those who have served and will no longer be serving because it does take a lot out of you as an individual and a family to put yourself out there as Mr. Lee said, one in campaigning, but also to be a public servant. I am very grateful. I am humbled and I look forward to continuing to work with whoever the council members are as well as the residents, citizens and businesses of St. John Parish. Again I say thank you and I look forward to much more for St. John, much improved and a place where you can say you are proud to be from St. John Parish, not that we aren't now but it is always that we are striving to be better and I want to be a part of that. I do want to just touch on a couple of things that we voted on earlier and that is for clarity. There were lots of questions about the contract amendments for the St. John Housing Mitigation Program. This is grant funding for housing repairs due to Gustav/Ike. We went through a competitive process and selected contractors based on the requirements of the grant. Once we received the grant, awarded the contracts, divided the homes we applied for an amendment to that grant which allowed us to add additional houses. Because we had already gone through a competitive process of RFPing the selection of the contractors, we proposed an amendment to the contract and we divided the homes based on the scoring of the RFP and the participation by the contractors that were on board. So this was not an attempt to circumvent anything. The process was done in accordance with the guidelines. This was simpler and quicker to divide the new homes to the already selected contractors and to amend the contract for inspection which had been awarded and approved by the council. I know there were about five contracts that we did amend. That was just for clarity

following the process that was dictated by the grant. Ms. Hotard we did have a very successful Andouille Festival. The weather was absolutely beautiful. We did have a grant from the Houma Regional Arts Council and that was a success as well for the children, as well as our gospel tent. We are estimating that an access of 18,000 people came through the doors. The food was delicious, the entertainment was wonderful. It took a lot of work from our employees. Mr. Julien that would I guess award them that day off for Halloween. It took a lot of effort to go into that but it also took from our non-profits who come in and sell and raise money for their schools and their causes. Everyone did a wonderful job. As with anything we do we have post meetings which is to assess what worked, what didn't work and what we can do better next year and we are in the process of accumulating all that data so we can make some decisions for next years festival which we are hoping will be bigger and better than ever. We do have a few things scheduled this weekend as Mr. Gauff noted, the St. John Community Arts Festival is in Edgard this weekend, the 28th through the 30th at WSJ High. There is a lot of music including jazz, country, reggae, as well as modern international dance performances. You can contact Mrs. Brenda Mitchell at 504-559-0990 or Mrs. Josephine Jackson at 985-497-8835 for additional information. They also received a grant from the Louisiana State Art Council and are preparing a wonderful weekend on the West Bank. Marathon's day of fun is also this Saturday at Ezekiel Jackson Park. For those of you who aren't aware, Marathon partners with the parish in making repairs and upgrades to the park. This Saturday the fund day is from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM. There are usually a lot of activities for children and adults and a lot of food. So we encourage all of our residents, especially in the Garyville area, to be out there. We are also having the second annual guns and hoses flag football game. It will be this Saturday at 1:00 PM at Riverside. The St. John deputies and firefighters will compete against each other and we are asking that everyone bring at least one can good or unwrapped toy to get in free otherwise admission is \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children. All of the proceeds will benefit Toys for Tots and the St. John food bank. The first annual pre-veterans day all Patriots' bayou run and car show will take place Saturday, November 5th, registration will take place at 8:00 AM. The proceeds will benefit the Southeast Louisiana War Veteran's Home in Reserve. The registration is \$20.00 and for more information you should contact David Grosse at 225-304-3577 or Sonia Hebert at 985-479-4080. The St. John Sheriff's Office and the Young Marines are participating in the national prescription drug take back day on Saturday, October 29th, between 10:00 and 2:00. It is an opportunity for residents to turn in their unused or expired medications for safe disposal. For your convenience locations will be at the LaPlace Central Fire Station, the Reserve Fire Station, Garyville Central Fire Station and the Edgard Courthouse. Please call the St. John Sheriff's Office for more information. Also the Sheriff's Office is hosting a closing drive to help victims of the Texas wild fires. The Young Marines will be accepting donated clothes at the VFW

Hall on W. 5th Street in LaPlace on Sunday the 30th between 10:00 and 4:00. As was just referenced Blessed to be a blessing has just teamed up with T.E.E.M. to provide some job training for individuals with disabilities and we are asking that you contact Mrs. Drueta Borne at 985-359-9954 or you can visit the office at 2015 W. Airline Hwy. in LaPlace. As we mentioned earlier with our new holiday on Halloween the 31st and All Saint's Day, November 1st, the offices will be closed. So we encourage you to take care of all of your business. We want to remind everyone on Halloween to be very cautious with kids going around. We need them to check their candy. We need you to be cautious when driving with kids out on the roadway. We do want it to be a safe time for our families and children. The 7th annual blue mass is scheduled for Friday the 4th at 10:00 AM at SJA Catholic Church and of course that mass is to honor our public officers, firefighters, EMS and military personal.

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Cable Franchise Agreement

Any and all pending legal matters

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:05 PM, Councilman Lee moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN

Council Secretary