

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**  
**CHAIRMAN MARVIN PERRILLOUX**  
**VICE-CHAIR MICHAEL WRIGHT**

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist Parish, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ABSENT:** Marvin Perrilloux

Councilman Snyder led the Prayer. Councilman Madere led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Keith Green, Jr. and Geoffrey Michel were present.

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

There was no public comment at this time.

**INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:**

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - October as Dwarfism Awareness Month**

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for October as Dwarfism Awareness Month.

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - October as Dysautonomia Awareness Month**

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for October as Dysautonomia Awareness Month.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**ITEMS:** Approval of Minutes - October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Regular Meeting  
Permit Approval - 16<sup>th</sup> Annual "Run for the Son" 5K & 1 mile fun/run walk - Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @ 8:00 AM.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items: Approval of Minutes - October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - 16<sup>th</sup> Annual "Run for the Son" 5K & 1 mile fun/run walk - Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @ 8:00 AM. The motion passed with Councilman Madere and Perrilloux absent.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

There were no ordinances at this time.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I'd like to ask that the council accept the recommendations from the finance committee."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Pannu moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to accept the recommendations from the finance committee meeting. The motion passed with Councilman Madere and Perrilloux absent.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Marvin Perrilloux - Council meeting date change from Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> - Election Day to Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Edgard, Louisiana**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to change the council meeting date from Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> - Election Day to Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Edgard, Louisiana. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

**Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R16-50 - A Resolution authorizing the Parish President to request a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana, Office of Facility Planning and Control (FP&C)**

LaVerne Toombs stated "This resolution supports a request for \$1,000,000 to supplement municipal bond and low interest State Revolving Loan funds for water system improvements through the Louisiana Department of Health. Projects slated for these funds include Lions Water Treatment Plant Upgrades and a Mississippi River Water Source for LaPlace. These funds will help to achieve the ultimate goal of a long-term sustainable potable water system in the Parish. Administration recommends approval."

Councilman Snyder asked, "You want to explain this million dollars to me? I think I have an idea but it might be the wrong thing you know so."

Rob DeLaune, Digital Engineering stated, "And what this is, this is a request to supplement the monies that are already in place, which is the LDHH Loan for six million, as well as some municipal bond monies, I believe \$5,000,000.00 (Five Million Dollars) to help move forward with the plan of the Lions upgrades and the Lions Water Treatment Plant. As well as, help moving forward with some of the planning, like the Membrane Pilot Study for LaPlace Water System as well as the land acquisition. So this money is to help supplement some of the funds that are already in place to move forward to avoid the long range goal of improving the Easbank Water System."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So that \$1,000,000.00 (One Million Dollars) that we asked for forgiveness for we're asking, we just want to get another \$1,000,000.00 (One Million Dollars) on top of that from the state?"

Rob DeLaune stated, "This is a request from a different program this is through Capital Outlay, the \$1,000,000.00 (One Million Dollars) in forgiveness was from the Louisiana Department of Health. So it's two separate funding sources."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "Yes Rob. How come this wasn't brought up in the workshop, the Water Workshop we had the other day?"

Rob DeLaune stated, "This is something that has been a recent development, actually Mr. Chris Guidry had called and we actually sat with him and he had made the recommendation along with President Robottom of there may be some reception from the state level for \$1,000,000.00 (One Million Dollars) in Capital Outlay, so this has kind of developed recently."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "So when you say recently, you mean the past couple of weeks?"

Rob DeLaune stated, "Yes, yes!"

Councilman Snyder asked, "So this \$1,000,000.00 (One Million Dollars) is going to go toward just the Study or it's going to go toward any engineering work?"

Rob DeLaune stated, "No. A portion of it will go towards either the pilot study or land acquisition that would be needed in the LaPlace area for the Mississippi River water source and then a portion of it is going to go towards Lions Water Treatment Plant upgrades. We have several different projects that are proposed and we're short on funding. So we're going to try and supplement some of that funding to do as many of the projects as possible."

Councilman Snyder asked, "You'll be short like \$40,000,000.00 (Forty Million Dollars) worth?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Just to, we could use yawl help on this one. We've applied for Capital Outlay in the past, but never for a \$1,000,000.00 (One Million Dollars). Of course, when Governor John Bell came in, they started only looking at certain priorities of certain dollar figures and you know trying to cut back on what they were necessarily giving to parishes, but this is a significant need for us, it's a recurring need, so we're going to ask that you contact our State Legislators, Representative Gaines, our Senators Gary Smith and Troy Brown and of course, we do have Greg Miller, all of them to work on our behalf, we don't typically don't request these amounts of funds in Capital Outlay. We have in the past, I think we've gotten security funds for security cameras in the past, we've gotten some energy efficiency funds but never to this degree, so it is a big step for us and it probably is going to require, you know some lobbying efforts or efforts on our part to get it in to Capital Outlay, but we know you know we have a need, we have a plan, it's all part of a comprehensive plan to fix our water system, so we decided to for it."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to approve Resolution R16-50. A resolution authorizing the Parish President to request a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana, Office of Facility Planning and Control (FP&C). The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you. I just really want to give an update to the residents on the Foxwood Project and I've been in Colorado and away from all kinds of communication since Thursday. And it didn't make the agenda so I wanted to just suspend the rules to put it on there to give an update,

not asking for any action or anything like that."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard and Councilwoman Pannu seconded the motion to suspend the rules to provide an update on the Foxwood Levee situation. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you and I thank my fellow council members. I just wanted to give an update, I did get a couple of calls from residents and I let them know that I would address it at the meeting and our Assistant Director of Public Works is here and I want to thank you for responding, very quickly on Thursday as I was leaving. We just had a few issues maybe with some of the slopes and grass cutting and things, we're getting it all worked out, there were some ruts at the levee which most of them had been remedied and we're still working on it. Many of the residents probably have seen the progress that's taking place, but to the ones who we haven't quite gotten there yet, just to let them know what's going on. And I do appreciate Verdell, the minute I texted or we called however it was you were out there and the resident messaged me and said you were there, so when it works man it works. So I do appreciate, I do appreciate that and the residents do appreciate it as well. The project has been long time in the making and hopefully once we get through these last few little hiccups it's going to be smooth sailing from there. So I appreciate that, and I appreciate my fellow council members for allowing me the opportunity to amend the agenda to update the residents."

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

**Jaclyn Hotard - (Carry Over 9-27-16) Water Bill Clarifications/Explanations**

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thanks and I've had this on here maybe once or twice we've carried it over. I did receive some communication and I see here we have on the administrative report that we're setting up a kiosk in the Percy Hebert Building. My request would be that we set up a kiosk at the place where people are going pay their water bills. Because as a resident, you know we have to think how a resident is going to think. And most of our, not most of them, but many residents do come to the water office, so if you're there you know and you're paying your bill and you need to get something resolved, and then they say hey; you need to go to the Percy Hebert Building to the kiosk, that's inconvenient. So I would you know just really request that if we're going to have one here, let's also have somebody there who can help them. Because the last thing I want to do is to further inconvenience a resident who has already been inconvenienced by an elevated water bill or the lack of being able to get in touch with somebody on the telephone. So maybe that's something you guys can talk about offline and update us on, but it's something that I think, I think we will be a disservice to our residents if we don't have a water person available where they're going to pay their water bills. The reason why I put this on the agenda and we all know, we've gotten the calls, I still don't have a water bill, I don't know where my bill is, because I haven't received one and it seems like that's the conversations I'm seeing on social media is that I haven't gotten a water bill. And I personally haven't gotten one, so I know what's being said out there is accurate. And there's a common tone I guess to out there that this problem is going on far along, for too long, and it's not your fault it's any of our faults really you know, nobody could have planned for this, but the response I think we're starting to see a little bit of frustration with the residents, it's spilling over to us and now we're spilling it over to you right Curtis? And then like I said, I know this isn't your working, this isn't your doing, I will applaud, I will applaud you guys for doing what you have been doing with what you have.

Okay so, I definitely want to recognize that I know you're doing, like I said; you're doing what you can with what you have. Ok and what we have is limited, and it's always do more with less. And what Natalie what they say in the Governor's Office; eventually you're going to do less with less, okay! But, if we can just see the light at the end of the tunnel with this, because I don't have the answers, you know I get tagged on social media, I really don't know, we don't really know from one call to the next, what the outcome is going to be, what are you communicating with the residents and what the new problem is. So I guess I'll have a two prong question: one, where are we with the water bill issue with the 45 days billing cycles, the elevating billing and then secondly, what is the issue with people not receiving water bills and that?"

Curtis Young stated, "First of all, I want to thank all yawl for yawl patience and everybody has been working with me, and also its ways to get answers to all the constituents, so I definitely want to thank yawl for yawl patience also. Regarding the days on the water bills, since the billing problem has been identified the billing cycles have returned to about an average to about 26 to I'd say to about 35 days. So we have been making a whole lot of progress on that and we strive to make more on that to as the days come. Also, the way we did that it was accomplished through additional staffing, operational changes. Individual complaints should continue to be forwarded to me and to all of my billing staff and you spoke briefly about the kiosk and I think Mr. Snyder actually had the chance to come and visit the kiosk today. The reason the kiosk was actually set up here instead of one of the service stations, because normally when the customers come in they kind of need to see the supervisor or make some type of payment arrangement, which has to be done here with me and not at the service stations, but we definitely look forward to maybe kind of setting something up temporary there for them also being that is where they pay their bills. The staff that I had that was assisting with the manual meter reads, they have now returned to their assigned task of doing disconnects and reconnects, and our new hires are also transitioning very well. The bulk of the complaints that we have been getting since we set up this kiosk have mostly been about the disconnecting and reconnecting, less about the days on the bill, so we are making headway with that. We've also developed a plan with the other section of our Utilities Department to Unearth and GPS all the registers and the meters in the parish. And what that will do as it progresses, it will actually speed up the meter reading progress. So actually as we go through these neighborhoods and we're looking to read these meters whether it be electronically or manually, they'll be a more accurate read and it'll be less time actually we'll have to get out and do a manual read, so we are making progress with that. Also, and our parish administrators Mr. Ross and myself, Ms. LaVerne and Ms. Robottom, we're also meeting with Bond Attorneys and Utility Consultants, and manufacturers about new registered technology and funding options."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay and what about the situation that we're having now where people haven't received a bill?"

Curtis Young stated, "Okay in regards to that, we had a delay and that comes with the transitioning of employees and that's to the new meter reading truck that we had. It takes some time for her to learn routes, for her to learn the different positions, streets that she has to go to. She's only been doing it now for a few weeks since we added the new vehicle and the new operations, but we also have the returning of one of our veterans, who was kind of out on leave that will also assist with that and making more progress with that. With him returning, I'll be able to get him in one of the vehicles with her who he

kind of knows more of the rights and more of the areas that, he's pretty much just more familiar with the operation than she is."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Let me ask this, since we're having a delay again with those bills, when customers do receive a water bill; is it going to be another elevated bill like before since there's a delay?"

Curtis Young stated, "No ma'am, what it is and if they actually look, there's a note on the water bill that tells them, in case of it being late that you still have an additional 15 to 20 days like you would normally have if you received it on time to actually pay that bill."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "And let me ask, as far as you know let's say if someone received a bill that was a 45 day cycle and from what I'm hearing they may say; oh my bill is normally the 52 or whatever the minimal bill is. And then I got a bill for 45 days and its 200, 300 dollars. Is that, are those exceptions to what's really going on or were people receiving \$200, \$300 bills for a 45 day cycle?"

Curtis Young stated, "I would say for the most part that they're exceptions. That's not the bulk of what's going on."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "So then that means if there's some other source of a problem."

Curtis Young stated, "Right and in cases like that, I actually spoke to Mr. Snyder about that today at the kiosk and in some situations we may have a failing register. And in that case, we send the guy out to do the test on the register, we change it out, we adjust it as a faulty meter and make an adjustment for the customer. Yes ma'am."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Ok, that answers everything. Curtis again like I told you the last time you were here and it was a trial by fire, we were in Edgard. I appreciate you always coming prepared and being able to answer the questions. Again, I can't say it enough, I know this has not been easy and I think you and Ross both have just handled this, I don't know if it couldn't have been handled any better. So I definitely appreciate you staying on top of it and staying prepared."

Curtis Young stated, "Thank you very much."

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "My question is; are you having problems with districts also or is it a certain district because honestly we have really been getting quite a few calls, many of times I don't send it out because I just send them the information that there's a kiosk open. Is there a problem with sending out bills on time, because I was thinking you know technology is there now? Why can't we put most of them on email and once you bill it, send out the email and let them figure out how to make the payments. And I know I pay all my bills online, so it's very easy. So now a days people would rather have it you know on email or just send it out directly to them rather than mailing it out. Can we look into that also?"

Curtis Young stated, "The system that we have in place now honestly it's pretty old and we're actually looking into some newer software where we'll actually have those capabilities of actually doing that. But I mean as of now, they're still able to, if they don't receive a physical bill, they are

actually able to go online and still view their bills."

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "Okay so they can do that?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "See what she's saying though, it's nice to get the reminder, like with Entergy all of the other bills I have you get the reminder, you're bill is now available to view online. And I agree the system is old, this system it requires you to change your password so many times, it has trouble linking accounts, I just I call now on the phone, I just can't deal with the online thing, so I've liked to believe I'm a little bit text savvy, so if I have issues then I know that people out there are having trouble with the system. But that would be good, if we get rid of this system..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting asked, "The new system yawl approved, the new finance system will have that."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Oh that's great!"

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "The question I also have is that; why do we have to change our password constantly, because I know every 4 or 5 months we have to change, I mean we have never had to change that."

Curtis Young stated, "It's actually a glitch in the software and I have been speaking back and forth with their representative to kind of get that ironed out. But as of now, he hasn't given me a solution so like I said; at moving forward with the new software this is something that we definitely address and I'm looking forward to actually making better. Yes ma'am."

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "Thank you."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes Curtis, I know you covered this pretty extensively, you know at the previous meeting, I think the first time you came we said they would be given ample time to pay that bill? And we weren't going to cut anyone off at that time? We're not adding penalties if they're over?"

Curtis Young stated, "No we are not adding penalties. No sir."

Councilman Madere stated, "Cause that was a question that was asked to me. Are they still going to have penalties added to the bill if they don't pay it in time?"

Curtis Young stated, "No we're still not adding penalties to the extended bill. Yes sir, but we have gone back to disconnects. We have, yes sir."

Councilman Madere asked, "What happened?"

Curtis Young stated, "We have gone back to doing disconnects. Yes sir."

Councilman Madere asked, "Okay when you say you're going back to disconnect, I mean suppose an individual usually pay \$50.00 a month and they get one of those \$200.00 bills, and they haven't paid it yet and they're not being disconnected?"

Curtis Young stated, "No, no those people aren't being affected at all."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok, that's what I was concerned about and no penalties added to their bill?"

Curtis Young stated, "No sir."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right and you didn't realize this job came with a night shift huh?"

Curtis Young stated, "I do now."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Curtis, I called you this morning and I just wanted to make sure, did you check into this constituent of mine that said that their water was disconnected? Was it or was it not? Because she had been making payments."

Curtis Young stated, "I don't remember the exact name of the person you said, but I know did look into it after we got off the phone that day, so I'm pretty sure that I probably took care of them. I don't remember the exact name though, honestly."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Okay I just wanted to make sure because they called me kind of upset this morning."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Are we averaging any bills at all, whether it's business or private water bills? We're not doing that at all?"

Curtis Young stated, "I'm sorry, say that again. Are we averaging?"

Councilman Snyder asked, "Are we averaging any bills, say for instance someone comes in, the bills are 3 times as much what are we doing with it? Are we making them pay for it or going check their meter or what?"

Curtis Young stated, "Yeah in a situation like that, the first thing I like to do is send out my technician to investigate and see what's going on. And we call that a reread or check for leak. So I send a guy back out, make sure that the first reading was actually accurate or maybe they don't have some type of leak that's going on. Once we investigate and see what the issue is, then we move along accordingly. So say for instance it is a leak, we find out that that constituent had a leak, then what we do we'll probably set them up on a water adjustment form, I speak to them in regards to what they need to do as far as getting somebody out there to take care of it. I let them know once their consumption goes back to normal, then that's when the adjustment is applied and the credit will be applied to their bill. But until that is resolved I do ask the constituents that they do make a payment of minimum bill which is \$50.26."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I guess we all have the same problem. You know about 55% of our populous is baby boomers and 45% of those are people who get paid once a month you know, like Tweet over there, he gets paid once a month. So that's a big issue with a lot of people, that's a big issue with a lot of people, you know whereas; you just can't just pay it tomorrow because the bill is due, they might have to pay it next week, you know and that's the big issue that I've seen with most people, you know that they can't they don't have the money right now to pay that extra, because they've been on budget the whole time. And seem like we just can't do anything about that, because may the law prevent us from doing that, I really don't know, but I tell you this, you guys



*if there's anything we can do to help those people, especially the elderly and those that are handicap and we can do something to help those someway you know and not to break any rules or any laws or anything like that, but you know those are the people that really need the help because probably everybody in here can afford to pay their water bill if it's double you know, but there's some people out there that can't, you know and that's the issue we face. I know you guys are working with those people."*

Curtis Young stated, "Yes sir, yes sir."

Councilman Wright stated, "Curtis just a quick question. Was there a possibility that some people were on 2 different cycles, because I had this issue. I got a disconnect notice with a disconnect date it was 9/12 but then right after I got a water bill with a due date of 9/12 and then probably a couple of weeks later it was a 45 day cycle and then probably a couple weeks later, I got a 30 day bill. And I know you had adjusted the amount, I just don't if that's something that's kind of common?"

Curtis Young stated, "Actually no. That was kind of an isolated incident as we were kind of getting things situated with the new people coming in and developing a new reading system with the new vehicle."

Councilman Wright stated, "Okay I was just making sure it wasn't a common system issue. Ok, thank you!"

**Larry Snyder - (Carry Over 10-25-16) Update on Ms. Hotard's Resolution R16-44, to establish a drainage crew within the Public Works Department**

Natalie Robottom stated, "We apologize, Mr. Nunes is out for a funeral of a close friend so he wasn't able to make it, but this is I think you should have received a revised Drainage Unit presentation. You don't want to go through the whole thing?"

Councilman Wright stated, "Yes please."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We do have our Assistant Director here who can possibly answer any questions you have. What we have on Page 2 is the Drainage Unit and all of the components that make up that unit, which is all the functions within the department. And that is catch basin cleaning, pump maintenance, culvert installation, street sweeping, canal spraying, canal cleaning, roadside ditches and culvert cleaning. Those are all the components of the drainage unit within Public Works. On the next item what you'll find is the amount of time basically the average time spent on each, as you can see the majority of time is spent with roadside ditches and canal cleaning 35% on both, street cleaning takes up about 3% of the time, culvert installation is 10% and of course culvert and catch basin cleaning is 17%. We are looking at and we will be coming back to you with some of the culver installation, because our current ordinance does not distinguish length of culvert, so there's a fee if you install a driveway and it's the same fee if it's a commercial business and you install you know upwards of 300 feet. So there's a disparity there, because clearly it takes us longer and more equipment and more time to do that type of culvert installation than it does for us to do a typical driveway. So we're looking at best practices, we're looking at what the timing cost us to actually do that, so it's likely to come back. But we do spend a great deal of time installing culverts on commercial property with a very limited permit that was probably intended for residential use."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I hate to stop you here, about 2 years ago didn't we come up with a plan for that? We came up with a plan for that to not charge \$25.00 or \$35.00 for those culverts and we actually had a fee for the linear foot."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I wrote it down because that's what we did 2 years ago, but what we actually at the time when we were going to change it, and we could pull the minutes, it was Brian had some discussion and we actually requested him to come back with a recommendation because he wasn't sure what it was actually going to cost and what we were going to adopt at the time, they weren't sure if that was actually going to work. And so, we asked Brian to make the recommendation to us because he knows how many guys it takes, how long they're going to be out in the field, all of those things. Make the recommendation to us and we'll adopt the changes, but we never got the recommendation so it's somewhat..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "You should be getting it, because that's still a problem for us, again it should be something that's doable, we're currently still installing these culverts, but it's taking more time and more equipment and we didn't want to compare that with what other parishes are doing as well, so we will be coming back for that. So that's a problem. On the next page which is Page 5, the Personnel and Equipment List, this is equipment that's currently in place, these are things some of them you can see were purchased over the last several years, and then over to the right is the personnel that's currently assigned to the Drainage Department, which is a total of nine staff members, there's a Drainage Foreman, 2 Operator IV's, 3 Operator III's, 2 Operator II's and an Operator I. On the next page is the Proposed Changes for Personnel and Equipment, over the next several years we're going to attempt to budget for the additional Marshbuggy, we got our first one I think last year, it's working well and so we think we can benefit from having another one that fits easier in the canals that we're cleaning, 2 additional Excavators a Tandem Truck, 2 Tandem Trucks of course when you get the Excavators you need the truck to be able to haul the debris off and of course 2 Equipment Trailers, the estimated cost of that is \$700,000.00, and that's based on us purchasing some of the equipment over the last couple of years. We'd also like to rearrange and this is something we've been working with the Public Works Department on in terms of structure, the current structure is a Director, Assistant Director and then everybody else. If we look at our Utilities Department it's a Director, Assistant Director and Managers over specific sections, which we think we'd like to elevate or include a Manager, specifically over Drainage, somebody over Roads & Bridges, so that you have someone in between everything going to your Director and Assistant Director. Of course, we'll have to budget for that and we do think with purchasing new equipment, we're going to have to have people to operate that equipment. So there will be a need for additional operators. So the plan is to have a 12 proposed staff plus a Manager in the Drainage Unit."

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "About the Managers, do we get trained Managers, those who really know what they're doing or we just pick within?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We don't always pick from within, because we're looking for people with management experience, which is dealing with personnel, dealing with scheduling, dealing with budgeting, purchasing, but if we have people within our parish that are qualified, we do try to move those up. We also working on, especially with our new management positions, management training, so in addition to the basic operations of the parish,

we're looking for basic management training for our managers."

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "The reason why I'm asking is because I did hear somewhere, I'm sorry I can't really recall where, because some of these people don't even have the proper training. And it worries me that with all the equipment that is you know, like the pipes that are getting old, some of them don't even know where the pipes are installed and things like that."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Well that's not their fault though. Like, you're right, we don't know where quite a few pipes were, but the people who installed them are no longer here. Ok so, if you weren't here when they were installed, then you have no idea and you know, we apologized to the Westbank again tonight, we do, we marked lines based on the information in our GIS System, but it wasn't placed in GIS when people are digging, they tend to hit these lines. So we do have Rebecca, who works with us very closely, all of the changes, all the identifications we're making, we're actually putting into our GIS System so that they are marked, but we have lots of pipes underground, connections that nobody marked, they either have the maps with them, they took the maps, they didn't mark the maps properly, so again we're working on trying to update a system that is not in good shape. But we find things for example, tonight you know it seems to be typical that we replaced a line and we're supposed to abandon the old line, but they don't abandon the old line, they're still using part of it and so, we're thinking it's abandoned and we're working on the new one and then you hit it and it breaks. You know, the goal of replacing a line is to make it bigger and increase the capacity, so you have to abandon and shut off what was there before. But we're finding throughout the parish there could be 3 different lines on one roadway. And then we don't know who's connected to which one, those are things that we inherited but as we're running into problems, we're fixing them, we're making them, we're abandoning lines officially and shutting them off and connecting people to the larger capacity line so that we have good information. But some of it is, it's just you know bad information with what we've been doing and I think they've been doing since probably 2008 or 2006, is marking it in the GIS System so we are identifying lines and valves and fire hydrants on an actual document that who's ever here can pull it up and find those lines. But training is important."

Councilman Wright stated, "I do have to say we had a big problem with that on Old 51 and Blake, Reed and Utilities Department did an excellent job, it was trial and error. I mean it was literally digging and hoping you're going to find a pipe. So they did do a great job but it just, it did take a lot of time."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And then shutting off water and calling residents, not knowing if theirs is going to go off. So you have to warn then look, we're disconnecting this line, you may lose water you may not. And what we found were different areas connected to different pipes, some not even in the area of where we were digging. So it's been a process, it's a fairly expensive process but we're tackling it, you know one area at a time trying to get it resolved."

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "I got to tell you I'm sorry I'm pointing this out, I know it's in front of the Subway on Belle Terre, that leak it has been going on for months..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "That would be Utilities."

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "Yes and Utilities have gone out there and they cannot identify, which is a very sad situation..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "Yeah it's in that building some type of pool leak, but again it horrible and it's not months it is years. And that facility..."

Councilman Wright interrupting stated, "Yeah I was just about to say we're drifting off a little bit and..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "But again, same thing. Proposed organizational chart changes. As..."

Councilman Wright interrupting stated, "Hold on Ms. Robottom real quick, Mr. Madere had a question."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes getting back to the drainage and proposed addition as far as equipment, I noticed on the first page we have 1 Vacuum Truck that cleans culverts? I think the parish needs at least 2 of those, you know for to add on to equipment for next year."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Okay well actually this isn't like a 3 year plan..."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well if not next year but I mean we make sure we add that to the list."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Add another Vacuum Truck."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right because 1 Vacuum Truck trying to handle all the culverts in this parish on both sides the river, that's virtually impossible."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We'll make a note of that and I think we bought one not too long ago, so we have idea of what that cost is."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right and one other thing is, and the most important thing out of this whole proposal is and what I said from the first meeting I was at or second or third when I was a councilman, that we needed a Drainage Department, now it don't have to be a Drainage Department, it could be a branch like you said of Public Works, but the key factor on everything that we're talking about, is that these nine individuals do nothing else but that, every day and they don't do any cement work, they don't do grass cutting, if they cut grass it's in the canals or it's in the ditch. That's the only way this is going to work. Because if they are doing something else, then they are not doing drainage. And like I said before, drainage is the biggest problem in St. John Parish, the 2 biggest problems deal with water, not enough clean drinking water, we had that problem, we got to make sure we get that straight, make sure we don't let water get in people homes, and make sure that when it rains we can use the restrooms and everything. So everything is this parish revolve around water, keeping it out, you know and keeping it flowing. So if that's, I said that before, if that's one of the biggest problems in the parish, if we don't have a department dedicated to the biggest problem, then we should have a branch that's dedicated, that's all they do, nothing else. When those guys come to work, they know that they're going deal with drainage, they're not going to be confronted with going do cement work. Now when we have an episode like we know some bad weather is approaching, maybe 3-4 inches of

rain we're going to be getting, well then that department balloons from 12 or 9 that you proposed to 30 or 40, because everyone else will do cement work and road repair now become drainage crew people. But we have 12 to 9 people every day when they go to work, they know they're going pick up where they left off from and that's the most important thing. I appreciate the chart, I appreciate the breakdown, but if we don't have those 9 dedicated individuals doing that every day, we still spinning our wheels and doing the same thing."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And I think the purpose for the chart was, I know people like to say they're not digging ditches, but there are other components to drainage. Like installing culverts, like the street sweeper gets the debris from along the roadway. So all of what you see is considered in the drainage department, so just because you don't see somebody on an excavator or all of these people on excavators, that doesn't mean they're not working on drainage for example; the vacuum trucks, those are all part of the drainage system, now we do struggle and I'll let Mr. Kendrick talk about this, one we're moving more people into the drainage unit, because it was there, we'd love to commit to everything working every day. We do have some struggles with that, some of it's because our veteran workforce and they have time off or they're out sick and so we have a schedule that you're scheduled to be on this piece of equipment doing this work, but if you're not at work, then we have that problem. Now as you said and you guys have seen, we all do drainage when it's raining okay, everybody's on a drainage team and we actually have a weather protocol team, so everybody has to pitch in during that time. We're going to ask and there's a schedule that is sent to Ms. Saulny on a weekly basis, making sure all these things are covered and when they're not, you know what's the contingency, you know when equipment breaks, when for example and I'm going to say this with a smile, when some of you call them to do something that's not on our schedule. Do you understand you know, it's very good that they're responsive and I know they're responsive, because Mr. Responsiveness is standing next to me, but he may leave a job to respond to you, which takes him away from what he was scheduled to do. So work with us on that..."

Councilman Wright interrupting stated, "And I think, Ms. Robottom I think part of that too is; sometimes I don't know if Mr. Kendrick if you can answer it. If you guys have an actual set schedule of just like canals that need to be cut and clean on a regular basis, so there are times we have to keep calling to get it done on a regular basis because it isn't put on a schedule."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Right, but I don't mean those. I mean like something happens, you know and you call somebody off, lie you know and sometimes they have to go, sometimes it might take priority over what they were doing. These same people with these excavators and trucks also tear down and demolish buildings. Which is nothing to do with drainage, but we have to take their equipment from the drainage department to go demolish a building, we need the tandem truck with it, with the excavator, we need the workers. So it's not as simple as it may seem, but our goal to do better at it, the goal is to revise these schedules, the goal is to have a schedule. You know I feel very strongly as you do, if it's not on the schedule and there's no way to track it or to quantify it, then it's less likely to be done. If it's on a schedule and I see and you know I'm one, I'm going to look at it, I don't think it should take you that long. Okay, some of the time allotments I think are a lot generous than it should be. We need to set what that standard is, this is where I expect you to be the amount of time that we expect you to do it is a week. Not two not three not you know and so at the point we need to make sure that's done so they can move on to the next set of canals or the next set of ditches

or you know have a progression, it shouldn't be and we tend to do that, hopping around because somebody's calling you. Ok now sometimes we have to hop because somebody's yards flooding or their house is flooding and we might have to leave and go and take care of that. But on a regular basis, our typical maintenance should follow the progression and it should rotate, we should have a rotating maintenance schedule and shouldn't be pulled off unless it's something major."

Councilman Madere stated, "I'd like to respond. Ms. Robottom I definitely understand what you're saying and like with the Utilities, you inherited that problem, we don't know where the pipes are, three pipes, four pipes, one is supposed to be dead and it's alive, one day we're getting brown water, one day we're getting clear water because they're on 2 connections, I understand all that. My whole objective is that; we inherited that problem with drainage you did too, but my whole goal is that within the coming years that we have enough equipment, understanding you take the equipment and go use somewhere else and the problem is we don't have enough equipment. And when I said about a branch or department, that means their equipment is their equipment. Okay and..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "We can't do that. I can tell you that right now."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well we can't do it now because we..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "We even borrow from Utilities."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right but what I'm saying is; that's from years of not recognizing that the parish was growing and as the parish grow, your workforce must grow..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "It's also related to the amount of available funding."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right available funding too, but also we have to recognize the parish was growing. Now the equipment we have right now would be more than enough in the 60's or the 70's, this is 2016 so as the parish grew and population expand, more work orders, more problems, more streets, the workforce have to grow and equipment have to grow, that's not your problem you inherited that problem."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Well you guys have done a good job on that. Yawl just purchased 3 bond issues over the last several years, we're continuing to add but we need to continue to add, the marshbuggy, the tandem truck, the additional excavator, since yawl have been here yawl have purchased quite a bit of equipment that wasn't there before. But it's something we need to keep doing."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right exactly what you said, all the equipment that we have accumulated since we've been there, that equipment was already here and then we accumulated much more, then you would handle your problem a lot better, okay you would have enough equipment to handle drainage, enough equipment to handle tearing down something else. So right now, we're robbing Peter to pay Paul, you got to stop to go use the excavators or the backhoe for something else. So I know you can't do it..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "And we may just have to look at that

Mr. Madere, because again we've talked about this. Some things to me is better, leave your drainage crew on drainage and contract somebody out to demolish this building. Okay so, you have to make some decisions sometime and that's what you rely, and sometimes we do that. Because you got to figure out what exactly is this costing us in time, equipment and management, on our part do we get a better service if we just you know get somebody else and do it and let us get on our way. I want Mr. Kendrick to talk to yawl about their scheduling."

Councilman Madere stated, "And everything is based on dollars, ok? Dollars to get the equipment and dollars to hire employees. But the bottom line is, we still need that additional help and down the line we're going to get it."

Verdell Kendrick stated, "Okay I understand exactly what you're talking about Mr. Madere. But here's another problem that we're faced with. We have probably in our department around 45-50 employees, and on a daily basis from Monday - Thursdays if you work 10 hours a day, 4 days a week, but again you have a lot of employees that don't, do not show up for work. That's the biggest problem that we have now. You don't have the employees, they don't come to work and when they don't show up to work, well we can't do the job. We can only do so much in a given time, and the whole since the flood everybody worked the flood, we got behind for a while because of the flood. And now we're trying to play catch-up, I think everyone who have contacted me concerning a problem, I think that I went on and took care of it. We didn't have not hesitation at all, it was done in a day, you know in a proper order. But again, when we schedule jobs, we do schedule it in a time that hopefully we can get it done in a timely manner. President Robottom and Ms. Saulny, they are always on the road looking at the streets, making sure the grass is cut and everything else in a daily basis. I get calls from Mr. Snyder concerning grass all the time, so again you know everybody is out there trying to as much as we can do with what we have, and again you know if it takes sometimes to do something a little longer, it will take a little time but I always let everybody know that it's going to be on a timely basis but it will get done. Any questions for me?"

Councilman Sorapura stated, "I'd like to make a suggestion Mr. Kendrick and you're exactly right, you try to get it done on a timely basis, but I think we should look at each council member and I got emails I hadn't sent you yet because I know you can't get to them now, some simple things. But if each councilman would get and prioritize who needs the most work done, go in that area, go to Garyville and just do Garyville, go to Reserve do Reserve, go to LaPlace just do LaPlace, put 2 in that area, send all your resources get in and out. Because we're going around you're hopping all over the parish man, there's no way you can spread yourself, you're not a spider, you're not a spider, you know. So..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "We do intern want to use the work order system, again Jackie may help all of you. What we're doing is; if you submit the work orders then there's a scheduling process in the office, so if it comes through a work order, then when they pull those up for next week, they can group the items that are in the same area together, but we do encourage you, I know email works for yawl, if yawl could just email your secretaries to put in a work order, that is our tracking mechanism. And they know I'm a numbers person, so I look at work orders, like what happened this year? It's like well, we're doing things that we're not reporting in the work order system because they're just responding to what you asking, so it's looking

like they're not doing these jobs but you know they are, but we didn't put in a work order because you saw me, you called me, you emailed me and I did it. So we do encourage you all to use the work order system, let their secretaries input these items so they can go in and put when they're done, as well to track the amount of time realistically, cause sometimes you know it seems like this year has been going on forever and we really just 10 months, but it you know it could just be me, you lose track of time, but that's our tracking mechanism. You call this in on this day, when I get a call from a resident or some of you and say this has been 6 months, I want to be able to find that work order that 6 months ago somebody called in and you still haven't done it. You know, those are our mechanisms for holding our folks accountable, so we do encourage you to utilize that system and when they're scheduling, they need to use those work orders and say; okay this is in that area, this all the Westbank, so I can schedule all this together so this is what you're working on this week. Or if there's things in certain districts if they can you know utilize the work order system to plan accordingly or schedule that helps them. So again, cause I call them too, I text them I do the same thing, but I try to get Megan to call in a work order, you know so we'll have a document to show this is when this actually came in, so if it's done quickly we can see it, if takes a long time we'll see that to. We know who it's assigned to, who called it in, so we do encourage you to continue doing that, we are working I know Ms. Toombs is working with Brian and Verdell on a more specific schedule with regards to what our anticipations are on a weekly basis. And he's right, we're out there too and we see things just like you guys are seeing them and we're sending you know calls and complaints and request just like you are. And they have to have a system for managing that, otherwise they are going to end up like spiders. If the 9 of you are sending things all over the place and then we're sending them things, well then you know they're pretty much acting like a spider, but if we put in work orders and their staff can pull them together and plan for it, then there some organization to how they're approaching these repairs or issues that have come up. Of course, safety is always our number one priority so sometimes we're going to skip over somebody else's if safety is the issue and make sure that's done first."

Councilman Sorapururu stated, "I think Mr. Snyder was the one that brought up a while back, a couple of months ago about having a planner, Mr. Kendrick if we had a Planner to go out in the field and access the work that needs to be done and come back to you and put the work order in, I think we could get things done in an orderly fashion because you're all over the place man, and I'm serious about being a spider. You cannot be in every place every day on every job. There's no way you can do it..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "That's why we want to add some managers. Some additional, again he cannot he cannot and but he would still be over all the managers. So you know whereas, this is your focus just drainage, you know cause right now he's drainage, he's streets, he's everything and Brian is too, we need somebody with those single focus, so when they have their internal meetings and get their assignments, they know where they're going to be, what they're going to be working on so they can follow-up and hold them accountable."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay that's my point exactly..."

Councilman Wright interrupting stated, "Hold Mr. Madere we have Ms. Remondet next."



Councilwoman Remondet stated, "Just one thing I wanted to mention, first of all we rarely see Verdell at a meeting, so I want to thank him for putting up with me at times and every now and then I get him to come ride out with me, which I appreciate. But one thing you said and we've all kind of skipped over it, you talked about people not showing up. Are there a lot of people ill on a regular basis or they're just missing work?"

Verdell Kendrick stated, "Well mainly they come in, they have vacation, a lot of them sick you know so mainly that's..."

Councilwoman Remondet interrupting stated, "Just want to make sure it's reasonable reasons for not being there, that it's not just missing work, that was my main question there."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And they're legitimate because they have that time, so you can't necessarily say you can't be out because you've earned this vacation."

Councilwoman Remondet stated "I just wanted to get that cleared that it wasn't just people not coming to work because they don't like what's scheduled or something."

Verdell Kendrick stated, "And one other thing we have on the work order system, you all get a report every week I think get a report from Ms. ..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "Every council meeting."

Verdell Kendrick stated, "Every council meeting and if you look at it we have more completion than incomplete. Again, when we get, complete 10 jobs per day you might get 20 more jobs coming in and that's a big task. And it may not seem as though we're doing anything but we are, but we can't complete everything at one time but we're doing the best that we can with what we have and I really you know reprimand my department because they're doing a great job out there."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you. And kind of to touch on something Natalie said and what I'd like to see, we know that we have like the work orders, that's something a pot hole over here or something broke over there or whatever, that's how the work order system goes. But my vision for this Drainage Sub-Department, we know we've got stacks of work orders, like you said, continuously coming in, so somehow we need to and I think having some of those midlevel managers will help, but we know we always we need drainage maintenance people and we know we need to have people respond to the multitude of work orders and it seems like we're doing now is we're using our drainage maintenance people to respond to the work orders and like Larry said, it's over the place. So if we can you know maybe use this as a tool to say, alright we have these dedicated drainage maintenance people, now we know there will be emergencies, there will be times that they have to be taken off those jobs and do something else, but we know on a daily basis the amount of work orders that would come in, we can't rely that heavily on those daily drainage maintenance people to carry out the daily work orders or we're not going to be effectively doing drainage maintenance and I think that is the goal, that's what the council is really trying to get us to move towards is having efficient drainage maintenance and supplying you with a staff that you need to carry it out. Because we do know its Brian, it's you and then everybody's at the bottom. There's no managers to manage what's going on with the work crews, to

manage what's going on with drainage crews and then the little projects here and there. We have a house that needs to get torn down or a fence that has to get put up or whatever it is. So I think this is definitely the step in the right direction but that would be my vision my goal is to not use those daily drainage maintenance people to even fool with the work order system. Because that is never going to go away. We're always going to be putting in work orders you're always going to be completing them, it's like weeds, when you pull one up two's coming back in its place. Every time Verdell would call me to tell me he completed something, I'd say; oh, oh wait while I got you on the phone let me tell you about these two more projects and I can't thank you enough because you're so responsive but I would say that would be the goal was to have those people just work on drainage and then have work force also to handle the day to day operations, and I agree if we have to tear down a building and it's going to take us \$15,000.00 you know in man hours and everything else and we can get a company to tear something down for \$3,000 and having a manager I think, other people in the office would help Verdell do that. I mean if we can clone you and duplicate you that would be great but we know we can't, we can't do that or I would have figured out how to do that in all these years, but that's just what I'd like to see. I don't want us to rely on drainage maintenance people to handle what we know if going to come up on a daily basis. Because a lot of the orders might be a street work order, we don't want to pull somebody off of an excavator to go supervise you know a hole in the ground...

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "No those are a little bit different but you're right. We do have work orders that come in for drainage and then we have our regular drainage maintenance. But that group should just be drainage because you have another group that will do the pothole, the road you know one of the other subdivisions, but you know initially this may have seemed as a task order and to be honest with you, we needed to do this, we've been needing to do this. We've talked about this, okay we just made them bring it before you, it's like you know obviously it's not something that they're not aware of we've continued to talk about it especially moving into the budget cycle that we needed to make some changes, what the expectation is, in terms of adding people and we are adding people of course we lose people, we add 2 we lose 3. You know it's a cycle and some of them are retiring, we have a veteran work force so we're anticipating some unexpected retirees early January, because they wait until January to get their vacation or whatever they get. So it's an ongoing process and I know you guys watches all these postings that takes time. These same people who are managing those departments have to go through the applications, have to sit on the interview committee and you know I meet with all the new hires when they come in and I try to share with them, you know there were like 50 people who wanted your job, you got it. We don't like doing this, you know it takes us a long time to advertise to interview, to make recommendations, to go through probation, we want you to pass. We want you to be successful through your probation, so we won't have to keep doing this and keep starting again and but you know we find that that happens. You know it's not us necessarily getting rid of people, some of them leave, it's not what they thought so we have a lot of transition and none of this is an excuse. We need to get this done, but we're just when you talk about you know we want them doing stuff every day, we deal with personnel on a daily basis 4-8 in one department that might be gone that you know again that if your excavator operator is not there well you then messed up our whole plan, because you know who's going to drive the equipment you know or let's say you're there the tandem truck driver is not there. So it's a good plan and you have to have a plan, and they know I want a plan, you got to at least have a

plan and know you didn't fulfill your plan, okay or to know where to pick up next time. But you know this was helpful, we're all working with Ross on budgeting for some of the additional equipment, obviously the additional people down the road to match up with that equipment, so some reassignments which you'll see in the organizational chart, we moved 3 people over to drainage and of course we're adding managers whether they're external or internal we need management additional managers within this department to help to manage the different areas that they're dealing with...

Councilman Wright interrupting stated, "Hold on Ms. Robottom, I think we have some comments but just want to say that was a wonderful speech, we're sounding like Disney World now making dreams come true. I'm going to start with our drainage department."

Councilman Madere stated, "First I want to thank Mr. Verdell, he does his best whenever he's called upon and one other thing is; whenever I put a work order in I call the office and put all my work orders in. I know as a councilman, we cannot direct Mr. Verdell or any of the workers anything to do, we can only put request in, so that's what I do I don't come in and ask him to go do this or tell him do that I can't give orders to him okay and none of the directors. We can only suggest and call in work orders, now we can check on it and see how it is. Now Mr. Verdell know I showed him a work order that was extremely long, I'm not going to go into detail how long it was but he immediately took care of it because he saw it was a problem and it had been put in for months and he took care of it. I don't know if my microphone works or it don't work, because I think what Ms. Hotard said is exactly what I said a few minutes ago. She may have worded it differently, but it's the exact same thing I've been saying for four and a half years, that we have to have a department, you can't happen overnight, we don't have the personnel, we don't have the money to do it now, but down the line, I may not be a councilman may not even be alive, don't know, but somewhere down the line this whole parish is going to have to have a branch or department, whatever you want to call it, that's dedicated to just doing what we said. It can't happen today, it's going happen tomorrow it may not happen next year. But I'm putting this council, this parish on notice that that type of department need to exist in this community. In order for it to be effective and to take care of the needs of the people. And I will have this microphone checked because I say things and it doesn't seem to register and then someone else say it and it seems to register. Maybe I have to move to another location."

Natalie Robottom stated, "She actually just changed one word. You said department she said unit. Same thing."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok yeah right, same thing. But I just want to make sure that they understand what we're talking about, it's not going to happen overnight, but we may have to make sure and like I said, Mr. Snyder can bring it up, Ms. Hotard can bring it up anyone can bring it up. But this was, it took 4 years to get to this point and I started this 4 years and it took 4 years to get to this point that we all have this very clear understanding moving forward with what we have to do. And it's not going to get there overnight, but we have a goal and that's what we have to get to. And that's all I want to see."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Okay sounds good. We do want to just..."

Councilman Wright interrupting stated, "Ms. Robottom hold on Mr. Snyder."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Your vision Ms. Robottom, what do you see as far as drainage is concerned. You know our biggest part of our drainage system, I don't think it's in the newest part of LaPlace, North LaPlace, it's probably like the Westbank and the older areas you know, so I envision just taking care of the smaller ditches the smaller canals you know, it seem like I don't know what your vision is on this but it seems like that seems to be the problem you know with all of our drainage. I go in his district a lot and Mr. Madere district and I see that, I was over there in these guys district and Mr. Alfred Songy, he brought me all in the fields back there I'm looking at culverts like this, you know and Tigerville is flooding you know, and I told him about you know, I told him about you know I told him about it and he said he's going to look into it. But you know it seems like those little things is what people looking for to see if the ditch is clean and things of that nature. I'd just like to what's your vision, I'm not talking about the big canals."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I'll let him address your question, but then I'll tell you."

Verdell Kendrick stated, "I have a comment concerning the Westbank. You said that Tigerville is flooding? Tigerville is not flooding. Tigerville problem is the problem that we had back there are going towards Moll Canal and all that we've dug out, now what Mr. Songy is telling you I have no idea what he's talking about, whatever he was talking about, but the Westbank is not flooding."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I know I know that, but that was just a concern citizen. Let me tell you this, let me tell you this. I saw canals, culverts just on the streets that were plugged, you know that canal that goes back on 3127 back there, that big canal that goes on the other side, that goes on one side to the other side..."

Verdell Kendrick interrupting stated, "That's state highway."

Councilman Snyder stated, "That thing has crossties in it and that thing got to have look like 50 inch culverts going underneath 3127."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "That's the one going, he's talking about the Moll Canal going crossing 3127, I sent you the pictures on that the other day. That's the one you're talking about."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I saw this and we went there and looked at that you know. I mean that might even help right there you know. Let's just get those crossties out there."

Natalie Robottom stated, "All of those things yawl each bringing up different things that all make up the drainage department. If you look at the next two pages, you'll see that you have been and we have been doing things. Those projects where we're changing out culverts, that's a lot of the problems in your older neighborhoods, because before they were culvert permits they put whatever culvert they want, they didn't care if it matched, so they're collapsing, we had the discussion about not being able to do individual projects for people but when we put together dollars, like there's \$3,000,000.00 (Three Million Dollars) this is Phase 3 of Reserve, this is our goal to try and align and right size culverts in the older areas to be able to get it to the other areas, but digging canals of the North side of Airline is

also a problem, which is why we're going through the permitting process to dig those, to make sure they can retain the water, as we get that water from the older areas, it's going to land in Vicknair Canal, and it's not deep enough well then now we're going to cause flooding there, so it all works together. You want to move that water from along the river to North of Airline where it's going to go into Lake Pontchartrain, but if your canals North of Airline aren't sufficiently deep or wide or clean enough to hold and retain that water until it gets out, well then we're just moving the flooding. So it's all the pieces all of you guys are talking about, it is the culvert cleaning it's culvert replacement, it's the smaller ditches in the older areas that need to be cleaned but we also have to make sure the canals North of Airline Highway are deep enough to hold that water that we're going to get to North of the Airline. So it's all the pieces that you guys are talking about that makeup the whole system and we have done a lot things. There are a lot of projects that have been done, I just you know when I talk to my counter parts, there's flooding everywhere, okay and I would like the environmentalist or somebody to take areas, what you hear everywhere. This hasn't happened before, we never had flooding like this before we never had this problem before. You're hearing that every day and what we're doing is, as we're spending these dollars and we're spending a lot of them, you know \$20,000,000.00 (Twenty Million Dollars) on drainage projects, but we're not where we need to be it's not because we're not doing anything because you know this council this parish has invested. We've been very fortunate to get grant dollars, lots of them to help us on projects that weren't there, but we still have to deal with the older areas. We have to deal with them to make sure that water flows, we have make sure where we're sending it, which is to Lake Maurapes and Lake Pontchartrain is deep enough to hold it, until it can get out because otherwise we're just going to, it's going to end up backing up to our older areas. If it can't get out, you know we saw that happen in the 2016 flood, it couldn't get out. So areas that don't typically flood, were flooding because there water couldn't make it to Lake Maurapes and Lake Pontchartrain. You know this was just information with Pages 8 & 9, kind of show all the investments that have been made, some of the equipment, you know again, this has been in a short period of time, most of these projects so there's a lot being done but it's not enough and we need to you know, strive to be better. But my plan Mr. Snyder, includes addressing all of those aspects. In the older areas making sure the depth is greater, we may want to look at some things differently, we do have to look at budget, you know there's some things we do really, really well and there's other things we might can use some help with. And so I'm open to all of that, but the expectation is, is that we're going to hit on the pumping capacity that wasn't always there. We're going to hit on the culvert cleaning, the culvert sizing and we're going to hit on digging these canals to make sure the depth is there to hold the water until it can get out."

Councilman Sorapururu stated, "Well I've driven around Reserve and some areas Ms. Robottom and Mr. Kendrick was with me in some of areas, there are canals, ditches that haven't been dug in 40 years, 25 years they haven't been touched. Trees that are in areas that if it's cleared that would help the water drain. Now that was there 25 years ago so and still there, so if we could hit on some of those major arteries that's you know blocked up and open that would help speed things up."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think we have a, I think they put together a map so again, it's all about a plan, it's about a plan to going here to here, this how long this will take, you'll be here and this is you know your sequence of events."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "And one other thing Mr. Kendrick did say and we really need to take a serious look, if you going to have employees coming to work to send out and work, we need to look at getting some type of temporary service where we can bring people in, bring the operators that can do the digging and operate the equipment until we get the personnel we need and I think that we need to look at the river condition, the river has been up for 6 months this year, 6 months we couldn't dig nowhere around the river road, about 1500 feet it is, that's a big handi-cap but right now the weather conditions are good, it's right to dig, I say go to temporary service get somebody that can operate that equipment until we get the personnel in place."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Well just keep in mind again it's all about money. You guys are coming are coming in for a budget meeting, right?"

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes we definitely will."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Ok. So we can't replace somebody temporarily who we're paying to stay home. Okay, you understand because they're eligible for their time, so we're paying them so we don't have money to spend on temporary employees or replace them."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "But I'm listening to what Mr. Kendrick saying. He does not have personnel to put to work and we have work that's not getting done. Now the rivers' low, he can be digging those ditches and getting all those culverts cleaned out, he does not have personnel. It's not going to take a whole lot of money to get a temporary service in here."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually we'll have what we did over the summer and you know so we're looking at a couple of things there and we'll have to see sit with you guys on that. Again the next section of canal cleaning or drainages, our canal spraying. You know that's been I think successful, they know I'm looking on the side I want to see water, I don't to see grass I'd like to see water in the canals. And so the spraying program that we reinstated you know, they're working well. So again, another part of the drainage program but you'll see we get 4 rounds of spraying, these are all the areas that are sprayed and again we have permits for these canals, this is our plan and of course, we're looking at the newer ones that they were just applied for the ones that we can go deeper which, I think we're going to have to look at another option for that. But we can't take this long, you know we have a time frame we dug some of these canals, you guys might of not been here but they started I think in 2008, there are canals that have you know been dug that were either through us or contracted out. So it's back to at least 2008 but we go to look, that's 8 years ago. Ok so we actually received some Gustav, Ike funding that paid for some of the canal cleaning that might have taken place in thirteen a twelve and thirteen, but you have to be ready to go back, they don't stay clean, they don't stay clean. So it's a regular maintenance program but we need to look at some alternatives."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Really quickly and I know we've been beating it down. But also to touch on that with the canal cleaning you have to remember that, what we've been able to do prior to this point has only been just kind of clearing, okay so right you could snag and grab and 6 months later you have stuff in there and some areas the residents do take care of the open ditches in front of their home and in some areas it's too difficult. But not up until recently did we actually go in and do the sonar testing to be able to make the case that it was the silt settlement that we could go a little further and all

this you know other stuff, but yeah when you're just snagging and grabbing I mean it's and that's why I think the maintenance, drainage maintenance comes into to play because to have it done by contractors, that's kind of like a onetime thing, it's something done you know continuously but prior to now we've only been able to do that limited, you know and when we dug before it was probably not lawful but you know this is where we are now, you know we did dig but anyways. We know we did."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Lots of components yawl all hitting on, on parts of them obviously it's not rocket science you know we should be able to handle it, but as you can see there's lots of components to drainage and we need to you know have a system in place to move forward. The next page I think again, just listing the canals and timeframe but again, we're going to be looking at some other alternatives. If you look at the work order system, you can see since 2012 what was done, we think our 2016 numbers are a little bit low because we spent a lot time during the tornado, cleaning up. We spent a lot of time during the flood, which took us away of what we would typically be doing, it's 315 for 2016. So again we do want to be able to track and include everything that's being done and be able to go back and say; oh yeah we did this in 2016. You know yes, this work order came in, you know instead of just relying on antidote, old memory and things like that, so we do encourage yawl utilize your assistance to help us utilize the work order system and when you get your reports, you know if there are problems on it, then you need to address those with Verdell and Brian. If there are things that that are taking too long, you know periodically things get they fall through the cracks, I've asked their assistance their secretaries to help them, because they're out on the roads, okay they're out in the field doing things and you know it could be very helpful for them to monitor those work order list and say you know what; this one been on this list for 6 months, maybe yawl need to put this one on the schedule and to help them out on the office task to prioritize. So that's, I think you'll asked questions throughout."

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "My question is; you have 359 I know it's not the end of the year yet, does this compiles to all the work orders parish wide?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "No this is just drainage."

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "I know drainage parish wide."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Oh yes, the entire parish. And if you see a little asterisk (\*) that's what we put. You know for several months we were doing tornado recovery."

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "Exactly."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Ok, so we weren't doing our and they did a great job and but guess what? We pulled everybody off, you know we had to get that debris out of the roadway. So we weren't really doing what were supposed to be doing, but drainage we were heling our residents. During the flood, hey! We all pulled off and did things there. Keep in mind, there's also working on these projects you know the millions of dollars in investments, these folks have to be on those sites to, kind of managing and monitoring what's happening with our pumps. So it made us step back a little bit and put some things on paper and not just in thinking and we're looking forward to moving some of this forward."

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "Yeah I'm really glad we lucked out and the water didn't reach our area, which is really good. But my question is; now this work orders, is it possible for the different councilmen to get their own work orders via email? I know now we have it and you know instead of wasting paper and printing and giving it to us because I always like to go back and see if there's a work order that somebody..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting asked, "An electronic copy? What are yawl doing with that, how are they're getting it? They're printing it, yawl don't get an electronically?"

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "No."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Ok, well I can send them to yawl electronically by district. We can send it to you electronically."

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "Yeah and that way we can always, you know look maybe 4, 5, 6 months ago that the work order came in and then we can catch you hey, this is still not complete."

Natalie Robottom stated, "That's how that works."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "One last comment if I may. What I'd like to see if it's possible and I don't know if we can do it now, but whenever I want to check on a work order if the systems, like if Jackie had the capability to go in and work order 1, 2, 3, 4 and get a status, then that would kind of take some of the pressure off of us needing to call..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting asked, "I think it'll be in our new financial system too. Look when we get that system, you know it should help out a lot."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "We going to find something else to complain about?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "No, no it'll just you know help keep everybody on task. It'll be more modern, we're trying to combine systems across departments that really don't talk to each other, that are outdated but the new system all of these departments were brought in when they were creating it, to make sure that it had what they needed to better function."

Councilman Wright stated, "That was actually my next question. If we think the new system would at least help with the scheduling aspect of prioritizing?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "There's scheduling, there's fleet maintenance, there's all kinds of components to it that are modules, (is that what you call them) that we're going to be utilizing."

Councilman Wright stated, "Great. Ok!"

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "I have one last question. I'm sorry. Are we not utilizing any of the Sheriff's people, those inmates?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "He doesn't have what he had, those were state prisoners or were they federal prisoners? He had 3 crews but they're no longer available, so he doesn't have that available to him. But periodically they do help us with certain things, but in years past we had 3 separate crews that



did things, he doesn't have that ability anymore."

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "Okay that's right, thank you. No more questions."

### **Lennix Madere - Adjudicated Properties - Parishes responsibility**

Alexandra Carter stated, "The Parish processes and abates open violations for adjudicated properties as other violations; i.e. grass is cut by contractors, buildings are boarded and secured by Public Works, and subsequent liens are filed with the Clerk of Courts and reflected as part of the property taxes via the Assessor's Office. The sale of Adjudicated Properties is handled through CivicSource.com and managed through the District Attorney's Office."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes I put this on the agenda, we have a property on East 30<sup>th</sup> Street, you're just new to it, everyone know exactly what I'm talking about, the back of 39<sup>th</sup> Street. And also there's another piece of property on East 24<sup>th</sup> Street that's been adjudicated to the parish, I think that's been about 3 years and I think it's 5 years before the parish completely takes ownership of it and I know we're trying to sell some of those properties. The one on East 30<sup>th</sup> Street didn't sell the last time, even though there was a few people that was inquiring about it, I don't know what happened. But I passed back there and what made me put this on the agenda, this other property that came on to us about 3 years ago, actually have someone living next door to it and the grass haven't been cut. So I and I think they're having a problem finding out who the property belongs to, but it's been adjudicated to us, so and also 30<sup>th</sup> Street, after that person called me I decided to ride back there by 30<sup>th</sup> Street and that building again is open and that grass have not been cut and it has not been cleaned up. So my concern is and if it's adjudicated to the parish it should be on a regular schedule as far as maintenance cutting the grass and it shouldn't have to be written up by Code Enforcement Officer if that property and that particular property been 6 years adjudicated to us. So I don't think we have to be writing that one up, we should have that on a regular schedule and that should be cut."

Alexandra Carter stated, "And we have, we recently became aware that we have 4 properties that are adjudicated that have blighted hazardous unsafe building on them. We can absolutely put them on a rotation so that our inspectors can be looking at these while they're going through that process and going to through administrative hearings for a legal clearance."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay, my question concerning that is; why do we have to have our inspectors write those up if their adjudicated to us, that should be like if I have 3 houses and I'm renting 2 of them out and I know I have to go out there and cut them. So what I'm saying is of responsibility to the parish, they don't need to be written up they should be every 2 weeks we have these 4 properties that have to be cut. And there's no need for paperwork because who we're going mail it to? Ourselves?"

Alexandra Carter stated, "And the DA may be able to assist me with this. But my understanding of this matter is that, we do the work and in order to file the lien for that work, we have to offer, whoever owns that property even though they're not paying taxes due process. That means we do have to continue to send the letters out to them, give them notice, even though they're not paying their taxes and the property is being adjudicated prior to conducting that work and order to then take that invoice, advise them of the invoice and then process that as a lien against the property. So the parish can in the

*long run be refunded for the work that we are producing on that site."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "Okay I understand that I understand that. My only question to that is; is that we make that those 4 that we know, belong to us, alright that we don't slip up that we send that on an automatic, you know to go to them and to keep record of it. But I mean it should be something on our part that we know for sure, every 2 weeks we need to be writing this up and this is not necessarily the Code Enforcement Officer go out there, but have them write it up cause we know that this is adjudicated to us. And keep your records so you can place a lien on it and possible get it back."*

*Alexandra Carter stated, "Right and just so we're clear, they do have to go onsite and document their findings prior to a contractor being sent to perform that work. We do have to a record of them going recording with pictures and a report prior to sending an inspector out."*

*Councilman Madere asked, "Okay, are those inspectors aware of those adjudicated properties in here?"*

*Alexandra Carter stated, "And that's why I think we're coming to a common agreement that we do need to make them aware that they need to regularly pass by and inspect these properties moving forward."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "Right ok! One other thing to. I want to apologize cause you did try and contact me a couple of times concerning the items on the agenda and I was not able to return your phone calls and I very rarely don't return phone calls, but I was real busy you know some things going on."*

*Alexandra Carter stated, "Perfectly fine, just extend me the same favor in the future."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "Right, oh well I will I will I will. No one other thing too concerning these agenda items. I really don't like getting phone calls about the agenda items because it's almost like giving you the answers before you ask you the question. But I know sometimes it's necessary you can best prepare yourself to give us an answer."*

*Alexandra Carter stated, "Absolutely."*

*Councilman Wright stated, "Just like studying for a test Mr. Madere."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "Right but I really don't like it. I really don't like it but that's why when we do give my answer and I agree with it, I still have you present it at the council meeting because that way it reach out to more individuals then just, I can sit down and dial. Everyone look at it and they see it. So we come to an agreement on that one."*

**Lennix Madere/Larry Snyder - Planning & Zoning office procedures and protocol**

*Councilman Madere asked, "You want to go first Mr. Snyder, since I've been doing a lot of talking?"*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "Well it's all about, I understand I got a letter we got, that's a protocol and if there's anything we need to do, that there's a protocol to especially with the workers and the administration. But you know a lot of these people that work for us here in the parish we know. Many of us*

know their parents, so you know, to tell them not to talk to us that just doesn't make sense to me. You know why they're afraid to talk to us in an opening, just talk to us, I mean we could be talking about pecans you know, but they're just afraid to talk to us because they said administration don't want them to talk to us. And I don't quite understand that you know, I've heard all kind of complaints about that. And also, it seems like, especially the Planning Department over there, they have some discontentment over there and I don't know if you know about it, but there is some you know among the workers over there. And it seems like they're getting kicked around, feels like they're getting kicked around you know that's why Mr. Madere and I put this on so we can talk about it a little bit. And it needs to be brought in to the public because these are people that we know. We know these people, you understand that and we care about them, and most of them are discontent who've been here for 20 years or so you know 15/20 years they've been here. They tell me now they have taken all the keys from them over there. I'm just trying to find out what's going on over there in the Planning Department. They can't talk to us, they have taken the keys, now they have to wait on, if the Interstate is blocked, the only people that have keys are the people that live in another parish. I don't understand that."

Councilman Madere stated, "Before you answer that question..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "No, no, no, no, we going to answer that question now."

Councilman Wright stated, "Hold on Mr. Madere. Mr. Madere hold on, we'll let Ms. Carter address Mr. Snyder's question..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "I want to know what's going on over there. That's what I want to know you know, why they can't talk to us?"

Alexandra Carter stated, "And I would say to be clear, communication between parish staff and administration has been very limited with disregard and I do not believe you have been given the full story in terms of what this was regarding and I don't think as per the procedures, this is something that should be discussed in a public hearing. I'm more than happy to discuss it with you in private because is regards personnel."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Why, why private?"

Alexandra Carter stated, "It is a personnel matter and that I think and I respect your opinions on this you know, I care about my employees, I think whenever you have someone brought in that's new that introduces change, that increases monitoring..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Change?"

Alexandra Carter stated, "Right change, that increase monitoring in order to increase efficiency that you are going to experience some disgruntled employees. But that I think is expected, I'm more than happy to discuss those things with our staff, we meet with them regularly, we hear their concerns regularly, we attempt to address them on a weekly if not more often basis. We make ourselves very available and so I'm disappointed to hear in this avenue..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Ms. Alex all that sounds good and it

sound like it's professionally put out there so the public knows what's going on. You understand that, but you still have some issues over there and it's some big issues and I can understand it, what some of the issues are over there. And I think we need to look at these people that these are people, you know and not just a number or animals over there, these are people. And what's going on over there is going to cause some problems. I would hate to see some of those people that retire on us right quick, then what we're going to have in there, because people over there are dealing with our permits and things, they're supposed to be the knowledge people, that's why that's going on with the permits. But I mean you have some issues over there and they were brought to us."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And I'd like to share a couple of things and obviously I agree with you in some aspects, because I get them to. You know I know the folks to but there is a protocol and I attempt to allow it to go back to the department. If it's not resolved and sometimes you know it's very specific, sometimes you don't want to go the person that you're conflictual with but, there's a next step and we encourage them to follow that next step. And like you said I know these people to, some of them I've worked with, so the first thing I'll say; have you spoken to your supervisor? Cause one, there is a protocol for dealing with issues and if it's not resolved then sometimes it makes it to our offices and our goal is to resolve it. And specifically if there are questions regarding and I think I may know some of what you're talking about, but if you'd like to sit with us to discuss it, we're definitely open to it, because we can't function with problems. And many times as we all know, we'll get a piece of a story and that's why I kind of wait you know, and it's not really the whole story. And then some of it is true and then we make some changes on our end you know because some decisions were made without actually running it up the chain.

Alexandra Carter stated, "Planning & Zoning and all parish departments abide by the Problem-Solving Procedures outlined in Sec. 3.14 of the Employee Handbook. This section is very specific to following the chain of command to resolve employee matters. If no resolution is reached, employees can file a grievance before the Civil Service Board. However, should Council members wish to relay employee concerns or issues that have not been addressed satisfactorily at the department level, Section C-7b of the Home Rule Charter directs Council members to the Parish President for resolution."

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

Brian Nunes stated, "The Reserve Drainage Project Phase III is moving forward as scheduled. The survey on Chad B. Baker Street was received Thursday and will be forwarded to the Parish Engineer for evaluation. The ditch on East 16<sup>th</sup> Street is scheduled for digging next week, weather permitting."

There was no executive session.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Parish Buildings - Security

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

Any and all pending legal matters

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

- 16-43** An ordinance establishing a CMRS Emergency Telephone Service Charge in accordance with ACT 665 (2016) of the Louisiana State Legislature (N. Robottom)
- 16-44** An ordinance, pursuant to LA R.S. 33:9101 ET Seq. as amended by the Louisiana Legislature, updating the Emergency Telephone Service Charge on fixed location wire line service users to 2016 AT&T Tariff Rates; converting said Tariff Rates to flat rate basis; establishing the rates for residential and business fixed location wire line service users; and otherwise providing with respect thereto (N. Robottom)
- 16-48** An ordinance approving a re-subdivision of Lot J-4 of the Joe Thomas Jr. Subdivision into Lots J-4-1 and J-4-2 of the Joe Thomas Jr. Subdivision, formerly part of the Mildred and Alice Thomas Property, located in the area generally bounded by LA Highway 18, the Union Pacific Railway, East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Philip Court, and East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana as shown in a survey prepared by Steven M. Runnebaum, P.L.S. on August 12, 2016 (PZS-16-1148) (N. Robottom)
- 16-49** An ordinance approving the extension of Conditional Subdivision Approval for an additional twelve (12) months for Coles Landing Subdivision, Phase IV, lots 148 through 208, and Parcels D, F, G & H, situated in Section 91, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana; which was originally approved on October 10, 2006, as part of preliminary/conditional approval for Phase III & IV, Lots 121 through 281 and Parcels A through I (N. Robottom)
- 16-50** An ordinance approving the extension of Conditional Subdivision Approval for an additional twelve (12) months for Praise Place Subdivision, Lots 27 through 83 and parcels V-1, V-2 and V-3, on East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, situated in Section 46 and 47, T-11-S, R-7-E, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana; which was Originally approved on November 8, 2005 (N. Robottom)
- 16-51** An ordinance granting approval to further extend the Conditional Approval of River Oaks Subdivision, Phase V, Lots 205-239, 245-252, 264-282 and Parcels H-11, H-13, C & D for an additional twelve (12) months, located south of proposed Woodland Drive right-of-way, west of the Vicknair Canal, east of St. Andrews Boulevard and north of River Oaks Subdivision, Phases II and III, in Sections 66 & 67, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (N. Robottom)
- 16-52** An ordinance approving the re-establishment of a Regional Planning Commission to include the Parishes of St. Charles and St. John the Baptist jointly with the Parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany and Tangipahoa, By amending St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances to Add Article IV - Regional Planning Commission within Subpart B Land Development Regulations, Chapter 101 - General and Administrative Provisions (N. Robottom)
- 16-53** An ordinance introducing the annual operating budgets for the

St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds and Capital Projects Funds for the fiscal year Beginning January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017.  
(N. Robottom)

**PRESIDENT REPORT:**

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good evening, we hope everyone has been enjoying this beautiful weather and we hope to see it continue through the weekend. We are still celebrating the success of the Andouille Festival and wish to again thank Marathon Petroleum, the presenting sponsor and all other sponsors and visitors for the success of the festival. More than 25,000 festival goers attended the festival and enjoyed great music, food and fun. We'd like to extend congratulations to Larry Zeno for winning the Andouille Gumbo Cook-Off and Chris Cancienne for winning the Dang Douille Andouille eating contest. Congratulations to all of the others who placed and participated this year. I want to thank everyone who played a role in the success of the Andouille Festival, specifically my staff, a host of volunteers, non-profits and businesses. To everyone who came out and supported the Festival and the vendors who participated. Thank you! Our Andouille Queens, Ms. Janet Nelson and Teen Queen Ms. Kash'mir Foley both assisted at the festival and appeared to genuinely enjoy their first official role as queens. We look forward to having them represent St. John for the rest of the year. Special thanks also goes out to Celebrity Cheff, Jeff Henderson and Natasha Clement for judging our Andouille Cookoff. Thanks to WGNO News with a Twist for a live show on the festival grounds. It was a fun and exciting kick off to festival weekend that was broadcast to the New Orleans viewing area. Special thanks to East St. John and West St. John bands for their assistance. The fair committee will hold an after-action meeting this week to review festival operations for changes and improvements next year. If you have suggestions that have not been shared, please forward them to the ED department. Our goal is to make the festival bigger and better each year. Photos from the festival can be found on our website and Facebook page. The Youth Summit hosted by the 40<sup>th</sup> Judicial Youth Services Planning Board was held last week and was an immense success with more than 200 youth attending. Those in attendance heard words of wisdom from guest speakers, participated in team building activities and enjoyed a meal from Raising Cane's. Thanks to all who volunteered for this great event and the schools that participated. Tomorrow, Wednesday October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. SCL Reserve Campus will host Community Financial Aid Day. Counselors and advisors will be available to assist with financial aid applications and to provide information about available programs. This is a great opportunity for the community to learn more about the resources available right here in St. John Parish. Contact Penelope Freeman, Campus Dean, South Central Louisiana Technical College, Reserve Campus at (985) 536-4418 if you have questions. The Parish library system is celebrating 50 years of service this week. This Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., all branches of the library will release fifty balloons to commemorate the fifty year Anniversary and give away cupcakes to the first fifty patrons to enter each building. The public is invited. To continue the celebration, the Central Library is hosting a program Friday beginning at 6:00 p.m. and it will feature music, food, fun and a slideshow of the history of the library. And Saturday morning there is a family day for children of all ages at the Central Library including trick or treating, games, prizes, paint activities and more beginning at 10 am at the LaPlace Library. All events are open and welcome to the public. Registration for Boys and Girls Bidy Basketball ages 5-14 is open until November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016. We encourage all children involved in football and other sports to stay busy after the season by registering for the 2016

*basketball season. Registration forms are online or can be picked up at REGALA Gym between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. St. John Heat will celebrate Homecoming this Saturday, October 29, 2016 at 9:00 AM at Joe Keller Stadium (East St. John). The community is invited to support our Parish youth. As the November 8<sup>th</sup> election approaches, early voting began today Tuesday, October 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and will continue through Tuesday, November 1 at the Registrar of Voter's Office located in the Percy Hebert Building in LaPlace and the West Bank Courthouse in Edgard. A sample ballot and list of polling locations can be found on the Louisiana Secretary of State's website. Reminder: Halloween is Monday October 31<sup>st</sup> - please be careful and lookout for trick or treaters. Reminder: Parish Buildings will be closed on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> for All Saint's Day and again on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Thank you."*

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 9:09 PM, Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Remondet seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

/s/Michael Wright  
COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR

/s/Jackie Landeche  
COUNCIL SECRETARY