

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26TH, 2010
CHAIR RONNIE SMITH
VICE CHAIR CHERYL MILLET

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel S. McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, October 26th, 2010, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: Ronnie Smith

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

Legal Counsels Judge Tom Daley and Kerry Brown were present.

Kim Fontenot – Presentation – San Francisco Plantation symphony

Kim Fontenot, Managing Director of San Francisco Plantation, commented that on November 11th, 2010 the Plantation will host a car show, gumbo cook-off and symphony starting at 2:00 PM. The fee is \$10.00 for adults and students under the age of 17 are admitted for free. She invited all to come out and join in the festivities.

Dr. Joe Welch – Presentation – River Parishes Community College

Dr. Joe Welch, RPCC Chancellor, commented about the growth and potential for more growth for people wishing to become students from the River Parishes area. He commented on the different programs that the college is now offering at its Gonzales campus. He presented a brief power point presentation listing the many classes offered and available through the campus. They also have online classes. Anyone wishing to know more about River Parishes Community College can visit their website at www.rpcc.edu.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes October 12th, 2010, Regular Meeting; Cheryl Millet – Appointment of Steven Fraker to the EDC Board

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes October 12th, 2010, Regular Meeting; Cheryl Millet – Appointment of Steven Fraker to the EDC Board. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

There were no ordinances for public hearings.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

- 10-31** An ordinance to re-zone The Thomas Brown Tract to show the change in the current zone of C-3 to zone I-1, the C. Cureaux Tract to show the change in the current zone of C-3 to Zone I-1, & A portion of the R. Buissier Tract to show the change in the current zone of C-3 and R-1 to Zone I-1 situated in Sections 58 & 59, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZR-1001) (N. Robottom)
- 10-32** An ordinance by adding definitions and additional regulations concerning animal control. The Code of Parish Ordinance is hereby amended by adding the following (C. Millet)
- 10-33** An ordinance introducing the Annual Operating Budgets for the St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Fund and Parishwide Sewerage Construction Fund for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2011. (N. Robottom)
- 10-34** An ordinance amending Sections 14-42(8) and 42-113 of St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, and renaming Chapter 42, Article V, of St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, all to read as follows (N. Robottom)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Lee stated, *"The finance committee met at 6:00 this evening to discuss some fifteen items for consideration mostly being authorization to go out for bids or to take under advisement most of these being annual requests by the administration. They all passed accordingly. At this time I would ask that a fellow council member make a motion to ratify the considerations made by the finance committee."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to take the bids for the Country Club Drive Bridge replacement under advisement, approved to take the proposals for medical, dental and visual insurance under advisement, approved to grant administration authorization to go out for bids for three (3) vehicles required for WAPMAX Grant, approved to grant administration authorization to go out for bids for unleaded gasoline and High leaded diesel fuel, approved to grant administration authorization to go out for bids on granular chlorine & 3 inch bio-sanitizer disinfecting tablets, approved to grant administration authorization to go out for bids for asphalt for roadway improvement and repairs, approved to grant administration authorization to go out for bids for concrete sidewalks, streets and drive way repairs, approved to grant administration authorization to go out for bid for culverts, corrugated metal, polyethylene and polyvinyl chloride, approved to grant administration authorization to go out for bids for liquid chlorine and sulfur

dioxide, approved to grant administration authorization to go out for bids for 2011 pumps, approved to grant administration authorization to go out for bids on St. Joan of Arc/Persimmon Drainage project, approved to grant administration authorization to go out for bids for all required materials & services needed for canal cleaning and excavation and approved to grant administration authorization to go out for bids for construction of the Health & Human Services Building. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Smith) and 1 abstaining (Hotard).

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

Haston Lewis – (Carry Over 10-12-10) West Bank Courthouse

Councilman Lewis stated, "I don't know how much help I am going to get in here tonight but I am going to try. I got stuck with the name Edgard Courthouse, which is St. John Parish Courthouse. I am going to give you a little history on it since I have been around. The courthouse has been having a problem with the Clerk's office. They had to move the County Agent out of it and the USDA because of room for the Clerk of Court. We built a building in the back of the courthouse which gave them some more room. The time passed. We were with the 29th Judiciary out of St. Charles and St. John were together. Then came along Judge Snowdy and we had to give up the Council room and the office which we still use when we have meetings over there. That was more trouble for us because we had to try to find more room. I went ahead and I talked to the council. We closed each side of the big hallway through the building up and we built some other things. Well that is filled. I lost on the council. I came back and I found out they built a little building in the back, next to the health unit to put some records in. Then they went further than that. They went in back of the water plant to put some more records there. Well since I have been back again we passed a tax. We said we were going to renovate the court house and give everybody some more room. We looked at it. We put it on the ballot and it passed. For some reason somebody divided the money and came up with one million for the court house and six million for the complex on this side of the river. It wasn't on the ballot like that. I don't know who did the dividing but the only way you can divide I looked at the dividing and I came up with a clue that it looked like everybody was getting a million dollars since we have seven districts. I got one so I figured you all got one. I am going to ask all of you who got one to join me and save the people's record. What do you think about that or are we going to let them go to the dogs? The DA needs room, he looked at the building. The Judge's need room. The Council needs room. We know we need a complex building but that isn't the parish seat. Everything should be in the parish seat. I think we need to look at that hard before we build any building. We need to try and get this court house back in order so that the people will have their records saved and we can have courts and do things that we should do. I don't have a problem if you want to stay over here because you say most of the people are over here but let me tell you something most of the people aren't in Washington either but that is where the capital is."

Mike Henderson – Resolution R10-37 – (Tabled 10-12-10) A resolution providing support for a Special Use Permit to allow Pilot Corporation Tennessee dba Pilot Truck Stop to develop Pilot Travel Center #082

Casino, a truck stop with video poker, at 4301 Hwy. 51, Section 18, T-11-S, R-8-E in LaPlace, Louisiana

Councilman Lee stated, "I originally tabled this item and I would like to leave it on the table at this time."

NEW BUSINESS:

Hugh Martin/Pat McTopy - Resolution R10-38 - A resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of not exceeding Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000) of Certificate of Indebtedness, Series 2010, of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana; providing certain terms of said certificates; making application to the State Bond Commission for approval of said Certificates; and providing for other matters in connection therewith

Pat McTopy stated, "Administration has been working with the Public Works Department and with our bond counsel, Mr. Martin, to develop a plan to procure some needed equipment for the Department of Public Works. It has been a number of years since any equipment has been purchased for that department. We were advised that there is a need for three tractors and grass cutters, an excavator, some trucks and very importantly a back truck to clean our culverts, a culvert cleaner. So we approached Mr. Martin with a request if he could assist us in funding and as you know interest rates today are at an all time low. We feel that we can issue these certificates of indebtedness for three percent or less in interest. We can pay them back over a five year period with the first payments beginning next year, \$16,000.00 the first year and we are projecting and these are only estimates based on current market conditions but we are projecting about \$212,000.00 in pay out for each of the remaining four years. Now that represents about 2-3% of the entire Public Works budget so it is a very small amount in the scheme of things to fund this very important budget."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Do we have enough employees to operate the new equipment that we are going to be purchasing, or is this replacement of older equipment or is this adding to our existing fleet?"

Pat McTopy stated, "As you recall we had an auction four to five months back and we sold quite a few of the older tractors that we had. If there is a need to hire additional operators Public Works would put in a staff requisition request."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "So some of it is a replacement of equipment?"

Pat McTopy stated, "Yes."

Councilwoman Usry asked, "Is this going to be on state contract or open bid?"

Pat McTopy stated, "It is my understanding that the tractor and cutters are presently under state contract. The back truck can be procured through piggy backing with the city of Monroe. The pick-up trucks can be purchased under state contract. The excavator that they are looking at is not under state contract and would most likely be bid."

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve Resolution R10-38. A resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of not exceeding Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000) of Certificate of Indebtedness, Series 2010, of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana; providing certain terms of said certificates; making application to the State Bond Commission for approval of said Certificates; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. WHEREAS, Section 1430 of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (the AAct@), authorizes the Issuer to make and enter into contracts dedicating the excess of annual revenues of subsequent years above statutory, necessary and usual charges to the payment of the cost of public improvements and other obligations which are to be borne by the Issuer under such contracts, provided all such dedications do not exceed the estimated excess of revenue above statutory, necessary and usual charges for the year in which such contract is made; and WHEREAS, the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana (the AIssuer@) desires to incur debt and issue not to exceed \$800,000 of its Certificates of Indebtedness, Series 2010, for the purpose of acquiring maintenance equipment including, but not limited to, tractors, cutters, excavators, trailer and trucks and paying the costs of issuance thereof, said Certificates to be secured by and payable from a pledge and dedication of the excess of annual revenues of the Issuer above statutory, necessary and usual charges in each of the fiscal years during which the Certificates are outstanding, to mature over a period not exceeding 5 years, and to bear interest at a rate or rates not to exceed six per centum (6%) per annum; and WHEREAS, the Issuer is not now a party to any contract pledging or dedicating its excess annual revenues above statutory, necessary and usual charges, EXCEPT for the outstanding Certificates of Indebtedness, Series 2004; Certificates of Indebtedness, Series 2005; Certificates of Indebtedness, Series 2007 and Certificates of Indebtedness, Series 2007A (collectively the AOutstanding Parity Certificates@); and WHEREAS, the Issuer desires to make formal application to the State Bond Commission for approval of the Certificates. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

Paul Oncale – Authorization to rescind the existing Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Port of South Louisiana and St. John the Baptist Parish and execute an operating and lease agreement for the St. John Airport

Paul Oncale, Director of Public Safety, stated, *"First of all we need to make a correction. The existing Cooperative Endeavor Agreement will not be rescinded. It will remain in effect. This is the same agreement that was signed in July of 2009. It was a misunderstanding when it was put on the council agenda. Administration is requesting that authorization to execute an operating and lease agreement for the airport between the Port and St. John the Baptist Parish."*

Councilwoman Millet asked, *"Excuse me Mr. Oncale, you are asking that we execute a new contract or amend the existing?"*

Paul Oncale stated, *"No. The existing Cooperative Endeavor Agreement remains in effect. This is an addition to that agreement. This agreement is going to allow the Port of South Louisiana to apply for and directly receive federal funds for improvements at the airport."*

They won't have to go through the parish like they did in the past because we were owners of the airport. They are going to take sponsorship of the airport so they can apply for their own funds without going through us. It is a thirty year lease at \$1.00 a year and there is a thirty day out clause in it by either party and it was reviewed and okayed by legal counsel, so administration is requesting approval."

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to execute an operating and lease agreement between the Port of South Louisiana and St. John the Baptist Parish for the St. John Airport. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Smith) and 1 abstaining (Lee).

Paul Oncale – Authorization to enter into an agreement to participate in the 2010 Festival of the Bonfires program

Paul Oncale stated, "This is the annual thing. We have been doing it for years. It allows the residents to build bonfires on top of the levee for Christmas Eve. It is an age old tradition. In order to do that we are asked to sign an agreement with the Pontchartrain Levee District and abide by their rules and regulations in order to build these bonfires. Administration requests approval."

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to enter into an agreement to participate in the 2010 Festival of the Bonfires program. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

Paul Oncale – Authorization to enter into a memorandum of understanding between St. John Parish and the River Parishes Transit Authority for Emergency Transportation Services

Paul Oncale stated, "After discussion with the River Parishes Transit Authority and the Office of Emergency Preparedness, there was a memorandum that was drawn up. This would allow the parish to use their buses during the event of an emergency to pick up people in need of transportation. They have five buses all are equipped with lifts for handicap people. We can use these buses in conjunction with the Council on Aging buses to transport our people in the event of an emergency and there is no cost associate with this and administration recommends approval."

Councilwoman Usry asked, *"Is this for any emergency?"*

Paul Oncale stated, *"Any emergency manmade, natural or anything. It doesn't have to be a hurricane because we won't have any this year."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to enter into a memorandum of understanding between St. John Parish and the River Parishes Transit Authority for Emergency Transportation Services. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

CORRESPONDANCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Julien stated, *"I just want to remind all the residents that*

Reserve is having their 150th anniversary. They have meetings that are held on Thursday's, very informative meetings on the history of Reserve as well as the parish. They are being held at the Lacour Center on 7th Street in Reserve. So we urge everyone to come out and participate."

Councilwoman Usry stated, "I just want to thank Paul Oncale for help on Indigo Lakes taking care of the stop sign and getting those holes covered for me. Thank you."

Councilman Lee stated, "As all of the council members, most of the people in the audience and I am sure the general public realizes that we are operating tonight with eight council members in lieu of nine. As a result of a 35 year plus council member who resigned at the last council meeting to take a job with the Housing Authority as the Executive Director. With that in mind, it has become necessary and we have been advised by legal counsel that we need to appoint someone to take his place until an election can be held. Mr. Wolfe and I have had quite a bit of dialogue about this. Obviously we have been serving for quite a few years together and he called me this afternoon and asked me since he no longer is a sitting council member. We discussed the issue and I explained that he couldn't technically make that recommendation because you resigned Mr. Wolfe but I assure you this councilman is going to honor your request at your replacement because we have done that for so many years. Late this afternoon, I can tell you he has had many qualified candidates that have asked him that are willing to serve St. John Parish in his absence. I will say this it is going to be an extremely difficult seat to fill but he has made a choice as of a few minutes ago. He has asked me to ask this council to honor his request that being a long time employee now retired from the parish, Mr. Raydell Morris. So at this time, at Wolfe's request, I would like to make a recommendation that we accept Mr. Wolfe's replacement that being Raydell Morris."

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of Mr. Richard "Dale" Wolfe and appoint Mr. Raydell Morris as his replacement as Councilman-at-Large, Division A. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

Councilman Lee stated, "Mr. Daley is prepared to swear him in at this point."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Mr. Morris, are you prepared?"

Councilman Lee stated, "I think it would be an excellent idea."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I think we should do it now."

Judge Tom Daley administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Raydell Morris.

Mr. Morris took his seat as the Councilman-at-Large, Div. A.

Councilwoman Millet stated, "It is official. Welcome to our council Mr. Morris and I look forward to working with you. I also want to remind everyone that it is Halloween this weekend. I would ask administration to make sure that the street lights are all lit for the kids this weekend."

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Natalie Robottom stated, "Welcome Mr. Morris our newest council member. First of all I would like to thank everyone that helped us with the Andouille Festival. Obviously it was an effort put together by several departments specifically our EDC, Finance and Public Works. However there was participation from lots of other employees and I want to publicly thank them for their assistance and making everything go well. To our outside partners the Sheriff's Office who provided security and a presence at the fair the entire weekend we want to say thank them as well as the Lion's Club who assisted at the gate and all of our non-profit organizations, schools and small businesses that without them we could not have the success that we had. The weather was beautiful. We had an excess of 20,000 people. We are always looking for ways to improve. We think our lay out and the entire atmosphere was very nice but we are going to evaluate what took place and make all the necessary changes. One of the things that was successful, we did a pay one price ticket sales early and we want to thank Matherne's, Don's, Gregg's and of course our staff at the West Bank Courthouse for helping us sell those passes. We sold in excess of 300 of those prior to the festival. Next year's festival is the third weekend in October, the 14th - 16th so we will begin re-visiting what took place this past year and planning for next year. A reminder that Election Day is November 2nd. It is Tuesday. Today was the last day for early voting and there are several important issues on the ballot. Voters will elect a Lieutenant Governor, a US Senator, Congressman, School Board member for District 8 and they will decide on ten amendments to the constitution. More importantly as far as we are concerned, St. John voters will decide if an existing 1% sales tax will be re-dedicated to allow for maintenance and operations in our parish water systems. It is very important. We need your help. We need voters to get out and vote on Tuesday, November the 2nd. There is also this Saturday we have the \$3.00 Cleaners located at 901 W. Airline. We are having a grand opening at 10:00 AM. McDonald's renovations, right across from our building, will have a grand opening from 11:00 until 1:00. Ronald McDonald, Grimace and the Saints mascot will be there and they will have lots of prizes. So everybody is invited to come out. Marathon activity day at Ezekial Park is also Saturday from 11:00 until 2:00. Marathon has been a generous partner with us on the parks maintenance and some of the renovations and upgrades and we look forward to continuing that relationship and hopefully expanding it. The month of November has several parish holidays and the parish office will be closed November 1st, All Saint's Day, November 2nd, Election Day, November 11th, Veteran's Day and November 25th & 26th for Thanksgiving. Again these are holidays the parish offices will be closed. There will be signs on the doors and it is also on our website. On November 5th, the 6th annual blue mass is scheduled at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church. I would also like to remind everyone that it is Halloween this Sunday. We wish everyone safe trick or treating and remember when you are going house to house check your candy before eating, go to houses with their lights on and of course for drivers in neighborhoods be careful for the trick or treator's on the street. We do have one other announcement. Sheriff Wayne Jones and I will be hosting Governor Jindal at the National Guard readiness center in Reserve on Friday for a luncheon. The doors will open at 11:00 AM. The speech will be at 12:00. Governor Jindal has requested to come and speak to the residents of our community to update them on what is going on around the state, what are some of the things

they have assisted with in St. John and what the future for our children will look like coming soon. So we invite you to come out and enjoy the lunch."

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Cable Franchise Agreement

Any and all pending legal matters

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:35 PM, Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

/s/Cheryl Millet
COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary