

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
**CHAIR LUCIEN GAUFF**  
**VICE CHAIR JACLYN HOTARD**

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Rudolph Soraparu Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ABSENT:** Ranney Wilson

Councilman Snyder led the Prayer. Councilman Wright led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Tom Daley, Billy O'Regan and Vercell Fiffie were present.

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - Declaring November "National Adoption Awareness Month"**

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation declaring November "National Adoption Awareness Month".

**Consent Agenda**

**Items:** Approval of Minutes October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - 5k & 10 mile run - Middendorf's Manchac Restaurant - 11/17/12; Councilman Snyder - Appointment of Janet Isom to the ZBA

**MOTION:** Councilman Snyder moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - 5k & 10 mile run - Middendorf's Manchac Restaurant - 11/17/12; Councilman Snyder - Appointment of Janet Isom to the ZBA. The motion passed with Councilman Wilson absent.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**12-50** (Public Hearing Held) An Ordinance granting approval of a Re-subdivision of the Julius Hemple Tract & The Emile O. Hemple, Jr. Estate into lots herein designated as Lot 1 & Lot 2 of the Hemple Estate situated in S-2, T-12S, R-19E, Lucy, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZS-12-1046) (N. Robottom)

**MOTION:** Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 12-50. The motion passed with Councilman Wilson absent.

**12-51** An Ordinance introducing the annual operating budgets for the St. John Parish General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds and Parishwide Sewerage Construction Fund for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2013 and ending December 31, 2013 (N. Robottom)

**MOTION:** Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to TABLE Ordinance 12-51. The motion passed with Councilman Wilson absent.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**12-52** An Ordinance granting approval to further extend the valid period of time of Conditional Subdivision Approval for an additional twelve (12) months for Praise Place Subdivision, lots 27 through 83 and parcels V-1, V-2 and V-3, on East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, situated in Section 46 and 47, T-11-S, R-7-E, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish (N. Robottom)

**12-53** An Ordinance granting approval to further extend the valid period of time of Conditional Subdivision Approval for an additional twelve (12) months for Coles Landing Subdivision, Phase IV, lots 148 through 208, and Parcels D, F, G & H, situated in Section 91, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish for 12 months (N. Robottom)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed with Councilman Wilson absent.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

Tori Buckles, Director of Economic Development, stated, *"First Councilman Smith we will have a meeting with the USDA on November 28 and that is to get approval for the building specifications as well as we are hoping to get approval for the purchase of the building as well as the construction as soon as we do receive approval we do plan to light that project so it will probably be early December before we know anything on that project. You may have received this notification in your e-mail it is a fisheries assistant program we called that meeting because there are several local fishermen that were severely impacted by hurricane Isaac as well as the local restaurants in the area so this will give them an opportunity to speak directly with the small business development Center and also to find out about any technical assistance or opportunities that are available to them. The date is November 15<sup>th</sup> it is going to be at Frenier Landing Restaurant beginning at 5 PM so the meeting should last about an hour and then after there will be a social period for both the fisheries and the restaurants to work together for supply arrangements."*

Councilwoman Hotard asked, *"I have a question, who is the small*

*business development Consultant?"*

*Tori Buckles stated, "The SBDC is actually a function of the SBA they have locations in every state and it is a free service that is available to any parish."*

*Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Okay so they are not people who are permanently housed here they just operate as needed?"*

*Tori Buckles stated, "They are here pretty frequently. They do work with both the parish as well as the chamber."*

*Councilman Smith stated, "I have just one comment. I know I have people on the West Bank also that were severely impacted by this. Did you get this word out to the people on the West Bank and for the people who didn't get this how can we contact them because this meeting is Thursday?"*

*Tori Buckles stated, "We sent a notification to all of the fishermen or fisheries that we know in the area and we also did use traditional media, online, the newspapers, it was posted online to our web page, Facebook and twitter accounts but we did send a direct mail out to all of the fishermen in the area but we can reach out to them again if you have some specific names that we could reach out to. Finally earlier today I e-mailed a report to all the Council members it is a result of our disaster recovery survey conducted on our behalf. It has very specific information from the 207 businesses that did agree to complete the survey. We do have some other technical assistance and opportunities that will be made available to them because the numbers initially are concerning there are some that did have a total loss, there were many that did have major loss so there is a trend a 30% trend that most businesses that were impacted by hurricane will never recover so we want to make sure that they do recover."*

*Virgil Rayneri, Director of Utilities, stated, "I was on vacation last week but the subject is the line under the river. We had looked at the best location and will concerning the depth and the width of the river. We had two locations picked. We met with the Corp and they brought something up about the concrete padding on the batture which is a rule that they have that the line has to be under and cannot be above so therefore we had to look at two other options where we don't have to deal with that situation and we're supposed to have another meeting with them next week and I will have the latest information for you by the next Council meeting."*

*Councilman Smith stated, "I know they are working I see them every day, and I remember back in January asking Mr. Savoie the impact that this would have and I don't think people understand what the 12 inch line will do for the people on the West Bank and I just want you to explain to the people what that meant."*

*Virgil Rayneri stated, "It means that you will have a greater volume of water throughout all of your fire hydrants and your system which you are a little limited at this time. We will be making the connections from the 12 inch from the plant to the 12 underground and also we found when we were doing this some valves that were broken which we are going to replace at the same time and we're looking at doing this and tying*

*in during the holidays for the school system so we can have minimum amount of outage. We hopefully should have everything ready for right after the holidays."*

Councilman Smith stated, *"Where are we with this water loan project?"*

Virgil Rayneri stated, *"We just signed the contract."*

Councilwoman Hotard asked, *"Did you say the contract has been executed? So the contract still hasn't been signed?"*

Virgil Rayneri stated, *"I was on vacation and I think the contract is in process right now."*

Councilwoman Hotard asked, *"Okay and that was the contract that the Council gave the authorization to manage the loan?"*

Virgil Rayneri stated, *"Yes Ms. Hotard."*

Angelic Sutherland, Director of Planning & Zoning, stated, *"I just want to give a brief update on the issues that my department was addressing recording hurricane Isaac. As per the records of the planning and zoning Department, there have been 1,007 hurricane Isaac related renovations permits issued to date. There has also been three mobile home placement permits and those were as per the Executive Order that was signed by the parish president allowing those people who had mobile homes to swap them out instead of having to go back to the planning commission. There were 19 temporary housing permits and 37 temporary FEMA mobile home permits that were coming issued thus far to date there has been a total of 6 properties determined to be substantially damaged. The notification letters have already been sent out to those property owners. A list of 27 potential substantially damaged properties and this is as per the damaged assessments that FEMA assisted us with a was sent to the assessor's office for modified assessment and once we received the modified assessment will then confirm whether or not those properties are indeed substantially damaged and then send notification letters to those property owners. At that point they will still be able to dispute those substantial damage determinations if they can bring to us a contractor's estimate that disputes the assessed damaged value that FEMA applied to the property this does not include commercial structures as FEMA did not perform substantial damaged assessments on those. We are handling those you on a case-by-case basis and through code enforcement as well as those that are being addressed by the property owners that are actually coming in for those commercial establishments to obtain a permit."*

Councilwoman Millet asked, *"Have we addressed the number of homes that have not had any gutting or anything done to those yet? Do we have those numbers yet or are we still working on those?"*

Angelic Sutherland stated, *"I don't have numbers but I was actually going to address that under Jaclyn Hotard's abandoned properties but if you want me to do it now I can do it now."*

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"They may not be abandoned properties, they may be still part of the Isaac thing that you're giving us a report on."*

Angelic Sutherland stated, "No the only properties that we have been compiling a list of are those that appear to be damaged by the storm and those that appeared to be still vacant but those people who are in their properties and are gutting, they are moving along they may be moving slowly but we are not calculating those."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So you are only addressing the ones that nothing has been done to? Do you have those numbers?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "I don't have those numbers with me no but if you want I can read what we are doing."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I will wait until you get to that. My next comment is, while I still have you up here, our code enforcers. I spoke with you several months ago about their contract because now we have no code enforcement contracts. I know that y'all have been working on finalizing the contracts to bring them to the Council for approval and what have you but it is almost a year now since the first contract has been expired these people are working without a contract. I am not saying that they are not willing to work but they need protection as well. They have no contract you can tell them tomorrow we don't need you and that isn't fair to these people."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "We are operating on month-to-month so obviously if they go month-to-month they are going to be allotted that month at a time. We are in the process of getting that advertisement out to advertise for those positions. I planned to notify the Council once that was done. It will be posted on our website as well as in the paper. We have many contracts that operate month-to-month once they terminate and then to if they have a contract we can still opt out with a 30 day out clause. We do plan to address that and right now they are operating month-to-month."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "When are we going to have this done? Like I said we have been working on this now since February and it is still not done it will be a year in February. When are you going to be finalized? This is something that pertains to them what if tomorrow they all say we are done we are out of here we can't take this anymore then where are we? You have to look at both sides of the picture."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Right this was one of those things that we met with counsel prior to the storm and we were all ready to actually go out and advertise. Once the storm happened, obviously this is something that kind of took a backseat to some of the more important issues. We did bring it back up. It has gone through HR and is going through the process right now. We anticipate it being advertised this week which is what I convey to some of the councilmembers earlier that asked me and once it goes out it will be posted for X amount of days, I think 10 to 15 days and then once we received those resumes will start interviewing at that point."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So this should be released sometime this week or next week at the latest?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Yes, we thought it was going to be next week but it fell into this week but yes it should be ready to go out

*for advertisement any day now."*

*Councilwoman Millet asked, "Do we get to see what you have finalized before it goes out?"*

*Angelic Sutherland stated, "It is the same thing that I took to the Council and we actually e-mailed all of that to the Council before the hurricane."*

*Councilwoman Millet asked, "So there have been no modifications, is what you are saying, that is my question?"*

*Angelic Sutherland stated, "No there have been no modifications we just picked it back up."*

*Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Can I get a copy or maybe forward to the council the list of the substantially damaged properties that are in my division or to each council members district?"*

*Angelic Sutherland stated, "Yes."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "Is there a schedule of fees? If someone comes in your office to get a permit and you need to look at a schedule to determine exactly what the permit cost because when we first passed hurricane Isaac I was under the impression that certain permits would be deducted but I have gotten feedback from some people I know that if they want to do some work it is going to cost them \$500.00 or \$300.00 and I was just wondering if there was a schedule somewhere or are those fees directly from South Central Planning?"*

*Angelic Sutherland stated, "All parish fees are set by ordinance and those fees are actually in chapter 14 of the code and it is not just permit fees it is any fee that applies to any department in the parish that can be passed on to customers, residents, etc. Those permits that were created after hurricane Isaac the fees were specifically set for those and they are actually lower than what is in the ordinance so they were reduced and bundled together. I don't know the specifics of the people who have come to you but what it sounds like to me is, I actually gave you the numbers of those hurricane Isaac related renovation permits but we have also still been getting permits from people who not only want to renovate but then they also want to build their addition that they always wanted to build that does not fall under the reduced fees for the Isaac renovation permits because you want to add on is not something that was caused by the hurricane or damage from the storm. So we do follow the ordinance for those types of fees. I don't have them memorized but for editions, for new constructions, for other types of modifications that were not due to hurricane Isaac related damage it is set by so many cents per square foot but there is a schedule yes."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "So if I decide I want to raise my house a foot and a half I can look at the ordinance and see what that would cost me as far as fees?"*

*Angelic Sutherland stated, "Yes. They have the elevation fee rate. I think up to 3 feet is a certain amount and then over 3 feet is a different amount."*

Councilman Snyder asked, "So hurricane Isaac didn't affect that part of the fees?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "No not for elevation purposes no just the actual renovation repair work."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Suppose I wanted to raise my house because it got flooded and that was because of Isaac so we are not giving breaks on those fees?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "If the council would like to modify that ordinance and give a break for fees honestly we haven't had anybody come to us yet to get a permit to elevate that was substantially damaged. Now if it is somebody that just wants to elevate and doesn't have to elevate that is up to you guys whether you want to reduce those fees are not."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well I did have someone ask me about it because she was charged \$525.00 to raise it so many inches that is why asked the question."

Councilman Gauff stated, "It seems like that would be one of those case by case scenarios and maybe it is something that we can consider as far as the Council to help them out."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "It is but we would also have to address that with South Central Planning because the majority of those fees go to them for inspection. If you elevate about 3 feet there is a lot more of a detailed inspection than if you just elevate 1 foot."

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

Councilman Wilson was absent so his item will be carried over to the next council meeting.

**Art Smith - (Carry Over 10-09-12) Comcast - West Bank Internet Service**

Councilman Smith stated, "It isn't just the West Bank their services are parish wide. Back at the end of February we met and were promised something's and now it is November and we still haven't gotten internet service, we still haven't gotten the same fees and it is just a list of things and it is not just a West Bank thing it is basically that the services are just not good and we keep hearing the same thing every few months that it is coming, it is coming but Christmas is coming too."

Mike Davenport, Director of Operations for Comcast Cable, stated, "I can answer that for the high speed internet services for the West Bank you can unwrap that present today anyone that calls in to order that with Comcast can get it."

Councilman Smith stated, "No you can't I called them before I got here tonight and I was told to set up an appointment, they were not sure when it was going to happen but it was not available to me as of 4 this evening."

Mike Davenport stated, "Do you know who you spoke with?"

Councilman Smith stated, "I called your cable line and that's what I was told as of four o'clock today that they didn't know when it would be available for my area. You keep telling people it'll be a few months one of my constituents hearing that got rid of her cable and went to you all and she is still out of service but she took what was stated at the meeting and ran with it and I don't know what to tell her. We don't have the same channels as the people on the East Bank. We don't have the same service. We don't get charged the same prices. We don't have the same quality. Either we need to get this thing fixed or we need to start looking for another service."

Councilman Gauff stated, "If you don't mind Mrs. Falgoust is it possible to get those questions and maybe if they had those questions at least that would be a start."

Paige Falgoust, Director of Public Relations, stated, "Well in reference to the problem that Mr. Smith has I did bring that up a few weeks ago to Ms. Francis so she was aware of that she actually stated it was taken care of and I know Mr. Smith had conversations with her. I will be more than happy to send that specific question again to her. The four questions that you had I actually forwarded them to Ms. Francis as well as I emailed them and asked her to forward on the questions."

Councilman Gauff stated, "What I said was could he at least address those questions and that may take care of some of the questions that people may have or that some of the council has from their constituents."

Mike Davenport stated, "I can answer those questions and one of the questions was dealing with high speed internet and was it available? It is available. I will have to follow up with this representative from our call center to make sure that their screens are updated because it just became available about a week ago so they have to toggle that it is available when a customer calls in so we will follow up with the call center to make sure that they do understand that on the West Bank the high speed internet is available to our customers. Another question was do we provide credits to our customers we have experienced service interruptions issues and we do. We don't do a blanket credit because we take them on an individual basis when the customer calls in and says that their internet has been down or their cable service has been down our representatives are allowed to issue credits based on each individual customer's needs. Another question was the government access or the access channel here airing live from the East Bank there have been issues there and that was new to me and so I will have our main engineer work with Richard Marino to maybe do a live test prior to the council meeting just to ensure that everything is working fine and that there is not going to be any issues so I will make sure that happens going forward so that the live feed will work and go off without a hitch. Another issue was a concern of multiple service calls and just the overall quality of service that we provide when the question was sent to me we have what we call service call ranks where we take the total service calls and divided by the total amount of subscribers that comes up and we look at this daily to see if it is a high rate or to

see if there is an issue in a certain area to make sure that we are providing quality service. We can come into a meeting and I know that you are going to hear the bad things that are happening and with any provider you are going to have times when we have outages. Is it our fault? Sometimes it is sometimes it isn't so we measure our success based upon how many times the customer calls in within an area with a specific problem no matter what service it is, so when I receive that I look back on what we call our service call rank and our ranks here are very low. I was very shocked to see that. Another question was how many channels have we dropped, we have only dropped the west coast feeds, those are redundant channels that we were duplicating so we dropped those and we opened up more band width for us to be able to provide you with more service. Now we did send our channel changes to all the council members we moved some channels around we changed the packaging, we changed some from our basic service to our digital service and we provided all of this information to all of our customers 30 days prior to us making these changes. Basically what we were saying is that we are adding more channels which is very exciting we wanted to add more channels but to do it we needed more band width so we are going to what we call all digital and we sent out a letter letting everyone know that you are going to need a converter box on all of your outlets because eventually any outlet that doesn't have a converter box is not going to be able to get our service. So we can then have the band width to add up to 40 more high definition channels and in that we are offering the first digital converter, along with what we call BTA's which are smaller converters for free at no extra charge to the customer to go digital to be able to pick up some of these channels that we have moved into that tier."

Councilman Gauff asked, "I would like to ask for some telephone numbers so that any questions or any time maybe a resident has an issue and are being told one thing and we were told something else tonight maybe we can refer them either to you or we can give you a call and then that way you can help navigate some of the problems that we have with some of these issues. I would say that one of the issues or the reasons why you are not getting a lot of complain calls is because you can't get through. I am just being honest. After sitting on the phone for over 10 minutes with no service you just hang up so that could be a reason. Secondly how often do you find an area that you aren't successful in that you give some sort of rebate or you don't charge that premium cost that we are paying for? I know I have had issues in my area and I have never seen a discount or arebate or anything so I am not sure how many of my constituents may have but I am speaking for myself."

Mike Davenport stated, "I know personally I have approved a lot of credits for customers that call up and do have legitimate issues that their service was out for an extended amount of time and so I just know that when you do call into the call center and you explain to the customer service rep and I monitor a lot of these calls that come in and we try to help and as the customer explains what they have experienced then the representative will offer a credit for their inconvenience. So if their service was down a week they definitely should be credited and we also have a measured repair time also so we are constantly working on this."

Councilman Madere stated, "No offense but this seems and the last time we talked about this was here in Edgard and it seems as though this is

a good pitch as far as what the company is all about and how good the company is but the bottom line is that the service is not that good and that is why we are still here today complaining about the service and the people not getting what they are paying for and for years the people on the West Bank have been charged the same as the people on the East Bank with the same productivity. Now as far as the credit goes then they should have a credit for years and how are you going to handle that? Now you are saying certain things are available today and the information didn't get out until tonight and it is still not available because Mr. Smith tried it 4:00 today. So the things that you say are nice but there comes a time when we actually have to see the results. You know sitting here listening to all the good things you were saying is like watching a commercial between dish TV and direct TV they are both saying theirs is better we need to come to the point that one is going to serve the parish what they deserve. All of this back and forth at every meeting has to stop you all have to be productive and follow through with what you are saying."

Councilman Gauff stated, "As you can see we have many concerns and we really need to get the information from you so that we can represent our constituents and maybe get some of their concerns over to you and we really need to see some improvement from Comcast. A big one for us is our meetings. We have had issues where we have not been able to broadcast so we know there are issues that need to be rectified."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Are you going to re-open the Farm Road facility so that people will know where to pick up these converter boxes?"

Mike Davenport stated, "The Farm Road facility that you pick up and make payments has been opened a week post hurricane but we do have trailers there as we are renovating the building that had 3 feet of water in it but we pulled in trailers so that everyone could get there and the office is opened. The box information has been mailed out to everyone and all they have to do is call the number and they will be mailed the converters at no charge to the customer and the customer gets it and self-installs it. This usually works very well and if it doesn't we can come out and connect it for them. We try to make it as convenient for customers as we can."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "When was this letter sent out to the residents?"

Mike Davenport stated, "The changes happened on October 1<sup>st</sup> and we give a 30 day notice."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "We had a little incident at that time called hurricane Isaac maybe they did not get those letters."

Mike Davenport stated, "We just sent out another mailer again about a week ago."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just want to make sure because a lot of people are in the renovation process and they are not thinking about their cable right now. They're putting their houses back together again and this little piece of paper that you may have sent them it may be in the trash right now."

Mike Davenport stated, "It might be but we go through three different mailers to communicate with them and at the end of that if we don't have 90% of our customers that have a digital device in their home than we tele-market and call them. So we give them four different chances to try and get that converter into their homes."

**Michael Wright - (Carry Over 10-23-12) Peavine Boat Launch**

Councilman Wright stated, "I would just like Chuck Savoie to give an update for the general public knowledge. I know we've been working on this for the last few weeks and we have expedited it very quickly just give an update to the public please."

C.J. Savoie, Parish Engineer, stated, "We obtained the permit. It was a joint permit between the Corps of Engineers and Coastal Management within about eight days after the last Council meeting. The permit allows the public works department to go in and did out the embanked area or what I call the quiet water area and that is where they were having a problem. So Brian Nunes had a piece of equipment there on the 8<sup>th</sup> which was last Thursday and they were digging in out and from just talking to him I think it will be done in about another week."

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you Mr. Savoie for expediting that also. We still are working on the 10 year permit correct?"

C.J. Savoie stated, "Well we just talked about that. I told president Robottom that we are going after the 10 year permit. You had a permit that was applied for and gotten back in 1998 as of 2008 it ran out and for some reason the administration at that time pulled the permit and I don't know why but that is for coastal restoration and that is all the information that I had so the maintenance agreement stopped at that point so we need to get back to get it again."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I just wanted to thank my fellow Council members. Michael and I worked very hard on this and I want to thank you for supporting the motion that we authorize Chuck to expedite this. It happened very quickly. The people at Peavine are very appreciative and send their thanks."

**Jaclyn Hotard - Abandoned Properties**

Councilwoman Hotard asked that this item be carried over to the next agenda.

**Jaclyn Hotard - Carrollwood Drive Road Repairs**

Councilwoman Hotard asked that this item be carried over to the next agenda.

**Art Smith - Update on the West Bank Airnasium**

Councilman Smith asked that this item be carried over to the next agenda.

**Art Smith - Update on the upkeep of all of the parish wide recreational parks**

Councilman Smith stated, "I was actually looking for Meyers to give me an update on the project that we had given them as to where we are for expansion or assistance in all parks."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I'm sorry Mr. Smith but since you had this item on the agenda I just wanted to pass on to our recreation department I have been doing some surveys of the parks in my area and a lot of them just need attention. We have some benches that are falling. We have some safety hazards and things like that. So if you get an opportunity if you could just do an assessment of those parks in my division to make sure that we address any safety concerns immediately."

Ann Terrio, Meyers Engineers, stated, "Our scope of work was to create a master plan for the 11 parks throughout the parish and in order to achieve an orderly development throughout the parish for all the parks. We have so far assessed the existing facilities and general condition of all of the parks. We have coordinated with the parish official's, the recreation director and we have gotten together with the assessor's office and gotten some property lines and the EDC department as far as things that would be needed for the Andouille Festival at the Hwy. 51 Park so that is kind of where we are now. We're trying to wrap up our proposed drawings because we have come up with some ideas for the parks and we are trying to wrap up cost estimates and then we want to present all of our ideas to the administration and the recreational advisory board within the next month depending on the holiday schedules. So that is where we are right now."

Councilman Smith stated, "One of my request was that we didn't get the public involved and that is what I was looking for public meetings and I haven't seen that you guys held any of those. Those facilities are not for just us in here to use. This is for the parish. I think in different areas people want different things which is why the public meetings should be held to get their input. Some areas may not have as many children and may need a walking area more so we need to tailor the parks to the people and I don't think we have gone with the public enough to get their input. There are two parks here and people don't really visit them."

Natalie Robottom stated, "She doesn't have our report but that basically is the goal. They actually started with some additional assessments of all the parks. They started with the two primaries. The larger parks one of them we actually have some funding for one so they have been kind of working on that just putting together again information about what is there, what has been there and what is traditionally requested by the council in years past in order to make some presentations and have discussions with the Council, the advisory board and the public. So they will hold public meetings as well but they are just trying to get a feel for taking pictures and having drawings without having meetings to understand with the request was they did based on some other parks and we had some questions on where the property lines ended so that determines how much property you have so they are doing a little background information but none of these plans will be implemented without input from the Council, the advisory board or the public. So they are working diligently at putting some things together."

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Jobe' Boucvalt - Authorization to enter into an agreement with the Pontchartrain Levee Board for the 2012 Festival of the Bonfires**

Jobe' Boucvalt, Director of Public Safety, stated, "Administration requests authorization to enter into this annual agreement for the 2012 Festival of the Bonfires. This agreement allows St. John Parish residents to participate in the St. James Parish Festival by constructing bonfires along the levees of St. John Parish up to the St. James Parish line."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to enter into an agreement with the Pontchartrain Levee Board for the 2012 Festival of the Bonfires. The motion passed with Councilman Wilson absent.

**Theresa Rodgers - Authorization to sign an intergovernmental agreement with St. John the Baptist Parish School Board for use of the REGALA gymnasium**

Administration requests that this item be carried over to the next council meeting.

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good Evening, St. John the Baptist Sheriff's Office Young Marines, Parish Government, and the Southeast Louisiana War Veterans Home, held the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Veterans Day parade and Ceremony on Sunday, November 11 beginning at 2:00 p.m. I would like to thank all those who made the event possible and those who attended. It is an honor to recognize the veterans in our community and to say thank you for placing their lives on the line for our freedom. We look forward to next year's parade and continuing to make it bigger and better. I would like to extend a special thank you to Walgreens for hosting the Halloween Community Event at Cambridge Park on Tuesday, October 30. A large number of residents including council members Lucien Gauff, Jaclyn Hotard, Larry Synder, Marvin Perrilloux, and Lennix Madere attended the event and enjoyed the evening with their children. The Hike for Katreena Tree giveaway was a huge success. Thank you to Hike For Katreena, the Apache Foundation, and Landcraft Homes for sponsoring the trees as well as the Public Works Department and Mr. Raymond Goodman for coordinating the event. Over 1000 trees were donated and residents came to choose up to two trees for their homes. It was a refreshing event that put many smiles on our resident's faces. This Thursday, November 15, 2012, the US Army Corps of Engineers is hosting a public meeting to discuss the Post Hurricane Isaac Assessment completed by the Corps and the National Weather Service. Open house will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the St. John Community Center, 2900 Hwy 51 in LaPlace. The North

American Model Boat Association and the Voodoo Gas World Championships will be held this week beginning at 8:00 a.m. Friday, November 16 and will last through Sunday. The retention pond at the end of Airport Rd. will be transformed into a venue for model boat racing. Visitors will be on hand from several states to race their boats. All are invited to go watch the races throughout the day. Mercy Chef's, LLC in partnership with parish government, the St. John Parish Sheriff's Office, the St. John Parish Crime fighters, and New Wine Christian Center will prepare a Thanksgiving meal on Wednesday, November 21 at noon for seniors 60 years and older and at 6:00 p.m. for residents impacted by Hurricane Isaac. The meals will be served at 1929 West Airline Hwy, in the New Wine Complex. Volunteers are needed beginning Sunday, November 18 through Wednesday, November 21. Anyone interested in signing up to volunteer are asked to contact Angela Suarez at 985-651- 1051. Thanksgiving baskets will also be provided for those in need during the holiday season. Donations of food baskets or \$20 toward the purchase of food baskets are welcome. Donations can be delivered in a sturdy box to 1929 West Airline Hwy in LaPlace to be sorted and organized for distribution. For monetary donations please go to [hurricaneisaacrecoveryfund.com](http://hurricaneisaacrecoveryfund.com) or make checks payable to "Hurricane Isaac Recovery Fund" and mail to First National Bank. For more information on donating or volunteering, please visit [sjbparish.com](http://sjbparish.com). Bidy Basketball registration has been extended through Monday, November 19, 2012. Boys and girls ages 5 to 14 years old are eligible to register for the 2012 season. To register contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 985-652-9569 or visit their office at 200 REGALA Park Road. Participants can also complete the registration form online at [sjbparish.com](http://sjbparish.com). The deadline to register is Monday, November 19, 2012. Coaches are also needed for Bidy Basketball. Any coach interested in volunteering to coach a team, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 985-652-9569. The St. John Animal Shelter is currently hosting a newspaper drive for their kennels. If anyone has newspaper they are interested in throwing away, please deliver it to the St. John Animal Shelter located at 488 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in LaPlace. I would like to remind our residents to please sign up for FirstCall alerts and Entergy's power outage alerts to stay informed when they are not home. Both of these alerts are important year round and will provide information during an emergency. As a reminder, parish offices will be closed on Thursday, November 22 and Friday, November 23 for Thanksgiving holidays. I would like to wish all of our residents a very Happy Thanksgiving."

#### **COUNCIL BRIEFS**

Councilman Smith stated, "I would like to congratulate Pres. Obama. Congratulations to all the local football teams for making it to the playoffs and good luck for the future. Happy Thanksgiving to the entire council and to everyone."

Councilman Madere stated, "I would like to echo what Mr. Smith said about the high schools and also for ESJ because it is a difficult

school year and season for the kids to go through. I think a lot of time we forget about the kids that are involved and the impact that it has on their lives and to still perform on that level and to make it to the playoffs is a wonderful thing. I would also like to thank Our Lady of Grace they had their annual outdoor mass a few weeks ago. The weather wasn't the best but it turned out really nice. I would also like to wish district 3 in the entire parish Happy Thanksgiving. I also want anyone in the district to call me concerning any of their problems."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I would like to echo what my fellow Council members said congratulations to all the kids that made the playoffs. I would like to say thank you to our Lady of Grace also because we had a wonderful time the message was great, the food was great and I think it is the first time in 17 years that it rained on the event but other than that it was really good. I had a good time at the St. John Hornets day it was a good experience and a lot of kids were there. I would also like to say thank you to The Grove Subdivision they are trying to resurrect their homeowners Association and we are going to have another meeting on the 15th I will be sure to send the invitation to administration and my fellow Council members it will be at the library on December 15<sup>th</sup>."

Councilman Wright stated, "I want to thank all of veteran's for the sacrifice they made for all of us. I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and all the best."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I would like to echo what all of these guys are saying especially the football teams that made it to the playoffs. East St. John I would especially like to congratulate those kids have been through a lot and I don't know how their coach did it but he pulled them together to get a winning season out of them and he did a great job. I would also like to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving. We have been through a lot this year and we have a lot to be thankful for. Happy Birthday to my granddaughters Arion Snyder and Joy Martin."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "For those of you who do not know Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> is national recycle day. So I have asked that all of our recycle bins be cleaned up and ready for the mass recycling that will go on that day. I also want to wish my fellow Councilman Wilson well in his recovery. One last thing in congratulations to President Obama and Congressman Richmond and Congressman Cassidy for his re-election."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Same comment congratulations to all of those who were successful in their elections. I would also like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. I would also like to make the request of the administration. I have sent a couple of e-mails over the last few weeks. I know you guys are busy but if I could just get a response to say we're looking into this or we are working on this instead of not getting any response at all it is rather frustrating when you send something to the administration and get no response it is just hard to do our jobs. So we can make a conscious effort to respond I would appreciate it."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I would like to say congratulations to all of the high school team and to the ones who were still in it and good

luck. Also thank you and congratulations to all of the elected officials. I would really like to say thank you to all the veterans and their families for the sacrifices that they me for all of us and for the freedoms that we have today. Also a heart-felt Happy Thanksgiving to all of our residents, we really do have a lot to be thankful for so God Bless."

Councilman Gauff stated, "We do have to go into executive session tonight to discuss LaPlace Industrial Properties, LLC versus The Parish of St. John the Baptist - 40<sup>th</sup> JDC, Docket No. 61301. Can I get a motion?"

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to go into executive session. The motion passed with Councilman Wilson absent.

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

Councilwoman Millet stated, "As a result of executive session I would like to make a motion that our attorney's continue to represent the parish in this matter."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to authorize our attorney's to continue to represent the parish in the matter of LaPlace Industrial Properties, LLC - Docket No. 61301. The motion passed with Councilman Wilson absent.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Personnel Matters

In 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

LaPlace Industrial Properties, LLC versus The Parish of St. John the Baptist - 40<sup>th</sup> JDC, Docket No. 61301

Any and all pending legal matters

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:48 PM, Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Wilson absent.

/s/Lucien Gauff, III  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary