

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**CHAIRMAN LARRY SNYDER**  
**VICE-CHAIR JACLYN HOTARD**

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Rudolph Sorapuru Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 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 Remonet, Councilwoman District II, Lennix Madere, Councilman District III, Michael Wright, Councilman District V, Larry Snyder, Councilman District VI, Thomas Malik, Councilman District VII, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilwoman-at-Large, Div. B

**ABSENT:** Marvin Perrilloux

Councilman Becnel led the Prayer. Councilman Snyder led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Keith Green, Jr., Geoffrey Michel and Law Clerk Kennilyn Schmill were present.

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

Councilman Snyder asked, "Ok does anyone like to make any comments? You got 2 minutes and will be timed on any items that's on the agenda, please come forward. Two (2) minutes no discussion just a comment. Identify yourself please."

John Cummings stated, "416 Gravier Street, New Orleans, LA. I'm an Attorney and I want to make a two (2) minute report before Dr. Brown speaks. Eighteen (18) citizens was selected, body fluids taken was tested and all eighteen (18) were positive for Chloroprene in their bodies. More people have been tested and those results were to come in. I've called Dr. Brown and spoke with him about that and I've been asked and we all have been asked to meet to the DEQ Department of Health and to give them the data and after a reasonable period of time we will meet with the Governor. And it is very important and it's very shocking and I thank you for listening sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes sir, thank you very much. Anyone else?"

Shondrelle Perrilloux stated, "And part of the two (2) minutes that I would like to address; the previous meeting I was under the impression that it would clarified and Ms. Hotard also had emphasized as well that the citizens' concerns is just two (2) minutes prior to Mr. Brown presenting his presentation would be unfair for them to accurately comment. So giving your words from this Council on the last meeting, we're asking that you would uphold that and give them at least two (2) minutes to speak after they hear, because how can they comment on something without knowing what information he is going to bring forward, thank you."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you ma'am, anyone else? Identify yourself please."

Just a moment Mr. Snyder. "Good Evening everybody. My name is Mrs. Geraldine

Watkins, I reside at 104 Apricot Street. I am a member of the concerned citizens of St. John. We are concerned over more than Cancer. Chloroprene is linked to rapid heartbeats, toluene is a human teratogen that may damage developing fetuses. It affects the nervous system, causes trouble concentrating, causes headaches, dizziness, light headedness, coughing, wheezing, irritates the skin, eyes, nose, and throat. What people don't realize, also is the emissions of Chloroprene, are inhaled through your nose, your mouth and your skin. Most of all where has the LDEQ been for the past 47 years? Thank you!"

My name is Janice Church. "I'm anxious to hear what Dr. Chuck Carr Brown has to say this evening. I understand that in the past he did not agree with the 0.2 limit that the Federal Government has set for Chloroprene. I wasn't aware if you don't agree with a number that the Federal Government has set, you just don't have to follow it. I don't agree with my tax bracket, and I'd like to use the same kind of option, we'll call it the Chuck Carr Brown option. Come up with a number that I do like and use that. I would love to get Dr. Brown's contact information, so if the IRS has a problem with me using the Dr. Chuck Carr Brown option, I can ask for his support."

George Hanley stated, "Resident of St. John the Baptist Parish, recently just bought a home not too far from the DENKA Plant, and recently found out about the Chloroprene that was being emitted. The Clean Air Act of 1970, with its provisions in 1977 and 1990, authorized the development of comprehensive federal and state regulations to limit emissions from both stationary, which is industrial and mobile sources. The law authorizes the EPA to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards or NAAQS to protect public health and public welfare, this is what we're concerned with. The Act was amended in 1977 and in 1990, due to many areas of the country failing to meet the deadlines. For major sources, Section 112 require that EPA establish emission standards that require the maximum degree of reduction in emissions of hazardous air pollutants. We, for a known fact of the emissions that's coming out the DENKA Plant, is causing great hazard on our health, by in the health of not only us, but also the children that comes up behind us. We feel that since it is the law to protect us, it should be provided for us, that protection should be provided by the federal and state governments. If it's not doing it then we have to step up and find out why it's not, why we're not being protected by it. We have a right to breathe in clean air and not to be worried about our health because we are outside. The parish just had a beautiful bicycle pathway along the levee and I used to walk that every single day but after finding this out, I'm too scared to even walk it anymore especially going pass that plant. So we are concerned as concerned citizens of St. John Parish, and we thoroughly believe that something needs to be done about that now, thank you."

Good Evening everybody. My name is Bobby Handy, I also live near the DENKA facility and I've been hearing that a certain group of people are trying to raise that .02 standard to a 31.2, and I would really like to see that all of those who are in favor of raising that level, I would like to see them move in that area where it's been, all these emissions are being put on us. And we already, I'm in sense of track 709 and we're already in one of the highest level of emissions and I think that's a sad thing right there for letting something like that go on in this parish. We have known to be one of the worst in the nation of cancer and we have a lot of these plants to be accountable for that. Thank you."

Good Evening. My name is Mary Hampton, I live at 155 E. 24<sup>th</sup> Street. I have a question also for Mr. Brown. I've been following the trail of the four (4) systems that's being put in by DENKA, and I hope Mr. Brown can give us the

clarification on what's going to happen when the final phase is put in. My one (1) is, my first question I want to ask is; through following the process, I know there's filters that's being placed, it's being washed and it's going to a waste vessel and there will be some Chloroprene in that vessel that I understand is going to be burning off the top, so also a few months ago I know that it was to the public to give something about allowing more waste water to go to the river. So from my understanding which I'm not a DuPont employee, but I have worked in operations, some of this Chloroprene is going to be going back to the river, hope Mr. Brown clarifies this. Also I would like to ask Mr. Brown, once this 4<sup>th</sup> stage has been put in place, it's supposed to, 85% less emission that we're having now. Also, DENKA has also made it public that they're not going to spend any more money because they had a consent on agreeing to do what they're doing now, it was done voluntary they're not going to put any more money into the system. So I would like to know, do EPA and DEQ have a process for the 15% that's going to be left for us to breathe? That's my question I thank you."

Good Evening my name is Lydia Gerard. I live on 216 E. 28<sup>th</sup> Street in Reserve, it's only two streets away from DENKA. The question I have is; what's going to be done at the end of the year and the order on consent has not been met? Will DENKA be given more time, if we continuously add in time? Because from reports we have gotten, some of the processes the four processes that are being in place, are delayed or there was a delay because Hurricane Harvey and whatever other delays have come up with them putting in the processes, so I don't see, I mean I don't know I don't have the latest report, but if those four (4) processes are not complete and giving us the 85% reduction that was said it was supposed to do, what's going to be done then? What is EPA, DEQ, DENKA, the parish, the government, the Governor or whoever, what's going to be done then? I mean, is there a contingency plan? Okay if it's not done there, then we give them more time and if it's done then you give them more time, that's my question; what's going to be done, at the end of the year? And it hasn't been met. We've been going through this 47 years, we know the regulations weren't what they are now back then, so since we know what they are and what they should be, something needs to be done. You know when there's a recall on some products or something, they take it off the market until it's done right something's done to correct it, but we have to still live with this while they're putting their processes into place. You know and we're being told that the high levels are spikes, off course they're showing they're spikes if you're only testing every 3 days or every 6 days, you're not getting a true reading, you know that's an average that's, it's not a true reading. So what if you test every day 24 hours a day; what would you get then? Thank you."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Anyone else on any other topics? We're good, appreciate you coming forward, the people and letting us know what you're thinking and what's going on."

#### **INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:**

#### **Dr. Chuck Brown, LDEQ Secretary - Presentation - DENKA Update**

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good Afternoon. I think there were some papers or some fact sheets passed out a little bit earlier. Dr. Brown and members of his staff are here to discuss and provide an update to all of you and of course Baileigh has copies of the fact sheets as well, so if you'd like a copy she can get that to you."

Dr. Chuck Brown was present to give an update on DENKA. A copy of the fact sheets are attached to the minutes for your reference.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded to suspend the rules to add Resolution - R17-44 to the agenda. This is a Resolution naming a check signer for the Parish of St. John the Baptist, effective November 15, 2017, the Finance Manager - Julie Songy. And the reason why we're having to amend the agenda to add this item is because we did have a resignation, so it's just another housekeeping item that we have another check signer named on the record. So my motion would be to first add: Resolution - R17-44 to the agenda. The motion passed with Councilman Madere and Perrilloux absent.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R17-44. A resolution naming a check signer for the Parish of St. John the Baptist, effective November 15, 2017, the Finance Manager - Julie Songy. The motion passed with Councilman Madere and Perrilloux absent.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Becnel to suspend the rules to add declaring November 22<sup>nd</sup>, as a half day holiday for the parish office. The motion passed with Councilman Madere and Perrilloux absent.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to give the employees a half of a day off on Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. The motion passed with Councilmen Madere and Perrilloux absent.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**ITEMS:**

Approval of Minutes - October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Regular Meeting; Councilman Becnel - Appointment of Tyler Lewis to the Economic Development Board; Natalie Robottom - Appointment of Jonathan Perret to the Historic District Commission; Natalie Robottom & Lennix Madere, Jr. - Appointment of Dana Bardell Wallace to the Historic District Commission; Natalie Robottom - Appointment of Donna Falgoust to the Historic District Commission; Larry Snyder & Lennix Madere, Jr. - Appointment of Ronny Michel to the Historic District Commission; Kurt Becnel - Appointment of Joy Banner to the Historic District Commission; Larry Sorapuru & Marvin Perrilloux - Appointment of Steve Guidry to the Historic District Commission; Julia Remondet & Thomas Malik - Appointment of Brian Oubre to the Historic District Commission

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I have a comment. And President Robottom, you may know off the top of your head. How are these appointments made? Is it seven (7) full appointments to the Board? Saw Alex shaking her head."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes it's seven (7), three (3) Presidential appointments and the rest by Council."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Four (4) came from, so four (4) Council Members."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Four (4) appointments. Ok, and the reason I'm just asking is because it appears in here it doesn't say that, but when some of the names were provided to me it appears that council members submitted two (2) names and I know I submitted a name and I don't see that appointment on here, so I'm just going to abstain from the consent agenda, because I do think that that may

*not be fare that since we only have four (4) appointments that they're the only Council members who got to submit two (2) names and some of us didn't get to submit any. And I'd like to ask that the council going forward that we do have appointments that run that way, that you maybe only submit one (1) name instead of submitting two (2) names. In the future I will not support anything that is not fare to the Parish Council."*

Councilman Snyder asked, "You said some Councilmen submitted two (2) names?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Yes."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Who's that? I don't know I just wanted to know, because I thought we all had an opportunity to do this, submit a name and I see some of us submitted the same person name, I know that. But a, no problem."

**MOTION:** Councilman Becnel moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Regular Meeting; Councilman Becnel - Appointment of Tyler Lewis to the Economic Development Board; Natalie Robottom - Appointment of Jonathan Perret to the Historic District Commission; Natalie Robottom - Appointment of Dana Bardell Wallace to the Historic District Commission; Natalie Robottom - Appointment of Donna Falgoust to the Historic District Commission; Larry Snyder & Lennix Madere, Jr. - Appointment of Ronny Michel to the Historic District Commission; Kurt Becnel - Appointment of Joy Banner to the Historic District Commission; Larry Sorapuru & Marvin Perrilloux - Appointment of Steve Guidry to the Historic District Commission; Julia Remondet & Thomas Malik - Appointment of Brian Oubre to the Historic District Commission. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 2 absent (Madere, Perrilloux) and 1 abstaining (Hotard)."

#### **PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**17-45** (Public Hearing Held) (Tabled 10-24-17) An ordinance authorizing Natalie Robottom, President of St. John the Baptist Parish to execute an Act of Donation accepting the following described property on behalf of St. John the Baptist Parish, and under such other terms and conditions deemed fit and proper by the Parish President in her discretion, and upon review by legal counsel. The property is described as a certain tract or parcel of land designated as "Belle Pointe Lift Station" located in Section Seventy-Seven (77), Township Eleven South (T-11-S), Range Seven East (R-7-E), Southeastern Land District, East of the Mississippi River, St. John the Baptist Parish, State of Louisiana, containing 86,859 Sq. Ft. (1.994 Acres) (N. Robottom)

**MOTION:** Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to remove Ordinance 17-45 from the table. The motion passed Councilman Madere, Perrilloux and Councilwoman Hotard absent.

Natalie Robottom stated, "I request just to remove this item, we've been working with Legal Counsel to have the property re-subdivided and issue it a parcel number, that has to go through our Planning & Zoning process and may not be completed until January, once that's done we'll introduce another Ordinance that's more specific and bring it back to the council. There's not an issue, the property is still up for donation it's procedural and manner and we'll get it back to you."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So you want to remove it from here?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Not table it remove it?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Remove it."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Is that 17-45?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes ma'am."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Did we take it off the table?"

Jackie Landeche, Council Secretary stated, "We did."

**MOTION:** Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to remove Ordinance 17-45 from the Agenda to have the property re-subdivided and issue it a parcel number, that has to go through Planning & Zoning process and once that's done, another Ordinance that's more specific and will bring it back to the council to be reintroduced. The motion passed with Councilman Madere and Perrilloux absent.

**17-46** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of not exceeding One Billion Dollars (1,000,000,000) of Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana Revenue Refunding Bonds (Marathon Oil Corporation Project), in one or more series; approving the form and authorizing the execution and delivery of a Refunding Agreement or Agreements and a Trust Indenture or Indentures to secure one or more of said series of Bonds; authorizing the appropriate officers of said Parish to execute certain of the aforementioned instruments and all other documents and certificates deemed necessary in connection therewith, requesting and authorizing the authentication and directing the delivery and application of the proceeds of said Bonds; approving the form and directing the execution and delivery on behalf of said Parish of the Bond Purchase Agreement or Agreements and/or Term Sheet or Commitment Letters for one or more of said series of Bonds which will set forth the terms and conditions under which said series of Bonds are begin sold; authorizing and approving the preparation and distribution of one or more Preliminary Official Statements and one or more final Official Statements relating to one or more of said series of Bonds; approving various financing and other documents; and providing for other matters with respect to the foregoing (N. Robottom)

Natalie Robottom stated, "The proposed 2017 Bonds are being issued for the sole purpose of refinancing the original Bonds issued in 2007. The Bonds are limited obligations of the Parish, payable solely by Marathon Oil Corporation. The 2017 Bonds shall never constitute indebtedness or a pledge of the general credit of the Parish. This refinancing has received Bond Commission approval and Administration recommends approval. I do have Mr. Hugh Martin and Ms. Meredith Hathorne here, if there are any questions."

Hugh Martin, Bond Attorney, stated, "Just one bit of information. The Bond Commission has not yet formerly approved this issuance, the application has been filed, it's been through the review process and it's on the agenda for final approval on Thursday. Other than that, Ms. Robottom explanation is 100% correct."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So in layman terms, this won't cost the Parish not one penny? Am I right?"

Hugh Martin stated, "Exactly, it will not cost one penny and there's a guarantee that all expenses will be paid and they warned to defend you if any problems would develop because of the issuance of the bond."

Councilman Snyder stated, "You know usually when Mr. Hugh gets involved with something, we have a lot of confidence in him and he knows that and we know that and we respect him very much. He's always been forward with us and informing of us of everything that goes on. And we also appreciate the relationship we do have with Marathon, you know they've been a good company for us in the Parish, they've just been a great corporate partner here, they helped us in many, many ways and ways some people may not even know. So we just look forward to working with them in the future. Mr. Martin, and thank you very much for handling this for us and for Marathon."

Hugh Martin stated, "Thank you."

**MOTION:** Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 17-46. The motion passed with Councilman Madere and Perrilloux absent.

**17-47** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the extension of the 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)

Alex Carter stated, "This extension permits the developer time to adjust the timing of construction to market conditions. Administration recommends approval."

**MOTION:** Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 17-47. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Perrilloux absent.

**17-48** (Public Hearing Held) 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)

Alex Carter stated, "This extension permits the developer to adjust the timing of construction to market conditions. Administration recommends approval."

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 17-48. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

**17-49** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the requested rezoning of Lots 9 and 10, Block M, Bootsie Subdivision, located in the area generally bounded by Northwest 2<sup>nd</sup> St., the Kansas City Southern Railroad, and Keating Dr., containing municipal addresses 627 and 631 Northwest 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana from the Industrial District One (I-1) to the Residential District One (R-1) zoning district, as shown in Exhibit 1 attached (PZR-17-1080) (N. Robottom)

Alex Carter stated, "On October 16, 2017, the Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of this request, which is consistent with the Future Land Use Map, surrounding land uses, existing and intended character of the area, and the Land Development Code. Administration recommends approval."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Why was that Industrial in the first place, we got a lot of homes back there?"

Alex Carter stated, "I imagine and this is an educated guess, so it was owned originally in 1984 as (I-1), so it's always been zoned (I-1). So the location is close to an Industrial area so I think it was just a broad rush. And there has been a rezoning in the area from area (I-1) to (R-1). It's just this property was not included in that rezoning, and that was done within the last, yeah in 2005 and 2007 there were two (2) re-zonings in that area, that included residential lots back to residential that were currently zoned residential. So this is part of a trend that we're sort of correcting the original zoning map that had it all zoned to (I-1)."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So all the other folks back there were, it was re-zoned to residential at one time or the other?"

Alex Carter stated, "Yes. So there's a trend in correcting it to reflect what it actually is."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ok."

Alex Carter stated, "This is part of that trend."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes ma'am thank you."

**MOTION:** Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 17-49. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

**17-50** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance introducing the annual operating budgets for the St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds and Capital Project Funds for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2018 (N. Robottom)

Natalie Robottom stated, "We'd like to leave this item here and carry-over it over. I think Megan is in attempting to schedule a couple of meetings with Council Chair so we can set-up workshops, so if you guys can start thinking of times that would work for you, we'd like to get those scheduled before moving forward."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Did we get a full copy? I haven't seen the full copy of the proposed budgets."

Councilman Snyder stated, "It's in our book."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "It's in the book today?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes ma'am."

Jackie Landeche stated, "All I have is what this is. (Showing the budget in council booklet), I don't have a full budget yet."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Where's the..."

Natalie Robottom stated, "The Ordinance, all of the number you have that. The other part that we're working on are the grafts and the..."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "The actual introduced budget."

Natalie Robottom stated, "You have it."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "We have that? Jackie make sure you email me I haven't seen an email copy of it."

Jackie Landeche stated, "You got it!"

Natalie Robottom stated, "It would have been from Ross."

Jackie Landeche stated, "I'll send it to all of yawl in the morning. Yes sir, definitely."

Councilman Becnel stated, "May I recommend like we did the budget last year. Remember we did them by each department? I would for us to do that again, that's better. And if you ask about timing, 4:30/5 o'clock for me."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Yeah the department by department worked better, so we need to make sure that department is there."

Councilman Becnel stated, "That's right."

Councilman Wright stated, "I just want to make sure that we do it in a public workshop form, rather than meetings, individual meetings."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Well I think that's what he just suggested."

Councilman Wright stated, "I just want to make sure."

**MOTION:** Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to table Ordinance 17-50 until a budget workshop can be scheduled. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

**17-51** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance authorizing the acceptance of improvements in the Belle Terre Commercial Subdivision, Phase I and releasing Belle Terre Land, L.L.C. from a development agreement, in accordance with Ordinance No. 16-28 and recorded in COI 344059. (N. Robottom)

Alex Carter stated, "In accordance with Ordinance No. 16-28, Belle Terre Land, L.L.C. has installed public improvements necessitated by the proposed construction of a hotel. In accordance with the requirements of the Code; Planning, Public Works, Utilities and the Utilities Board have reviewed, inspected, and issued letters to facilitate the acceptance of such improvements. This has been reviewed and approved as legally sufficient by Legal Counsel and Administration recommends approval."

**MOTION:** Councilman Malik moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 17-51. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Madere stated, "I'd like to make a motion that the council accept the minutes from the finance committee meeting."

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to accept minutes from the finance committee meeting. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Jerry Jones - (Tabled 10-24-17) Approval of the amended by-laws for the Economic Development Advisory Committee**

The above item will remain on the table.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

There is no new business.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS**

**Blake Fogelman - Utilities Director - Departmental Report**

Blake Fogelman stated, "Yes sir, thank you Chairman. I think last Council Meeting you all requested we work with the Parish Engineer to investigate feasibility of construction of a well as well as maybe a contingency plan for District III, which is the LaPlace Water System. We did meet with the Parish Engineer last week, his staff on Tuesday, we both brought I guess brought our operational data to the table, he brought some preliminary numbers he was able to pull together. We both went back and reviewed that, his intent was to get together with him yesterday to finalize maybe something more solid to present to you all, unfortunately out of respect for their family, and the Savoie family, I didn't reach out them yesterday after we heard the news that came out. So we will continue to work, hopefully they have time to process what they're going through and we'll get back with you all hopefully at the next meeting or the one after that."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ok, I'll take that for right now. Thank you very much."

**Larry Sorapuru - (Tabled 10-24-17) Discussion on potential DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) policy and possible creation of DBE Board**

**MOTION:** Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to remove Discussion on potential DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) policy and possible creation of DBE Board from the table. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes, I put this item because I just thought this would be an opportunity to have some small businesses that we have in the parish. We have the Community College already have the FastTrac program and we have it tied in to Delgado, I mean not Delgado a Xavier University, we have a number of things that's going it's inspiring small business people to, to grow their businesses. So this would be a good opportunity if the Council would want to maybe get a committee together and see what direction we could go with this. We can get small businesses a chance to get some of these contracts, partnership with some of the other contractors that we have been dealing with in the Parish."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually, I did read over it and there are some things that we're doing, some of which you're referencing which is reaching out to our Business Center and quite a few organizations to make sure that they're getting a full opportunity. But we'd be happy to set up a committee to discuss this, are you guys going to appoint somebody? I know who would be on it from my staff. Is that what's going to happen?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well we need to talk about that."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yeah this is what we were asking for discussion on. If the Council wishes to do that or we can have a complete workshop, where everybody can understand how the DBE program is being executed. It's just an opportunity to inspire some small business people to come to the table."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well, if this seems like it could be a thorn that you sat on every time you get on your horse, I think you really want to get something started with this and I don't blame you. We've been talking about it a long time. I think we may have to find out someone who's an expert in that area first, and set up that workshop. We may need to get the administration help on this, to see if they can get some experts to come in here..."

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, "Sure, that's exactly what I had in mind. There's a number of people that's doing this right now for some various industries that's operating, that's all they do. They monitor and they enforce the policies the way they should be enforced. So of course everything has a trade-off, it's going to cost money to do it, but overall we can encourage small businesses to come out and partnership and get a part of some of these contracts that we're giving out."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I won't say I'm an expert on this, but I'm very familiar and I'd like to just, I think a workshop would be a good start. Because it seems as if, and I'll ask you Mr. Sorapuru, I know this is something you put on the agenda; do you know how many actual DBE's we have in St. John Parish?"

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "We have approximately and I'm sorry, I should of, we have a list of about 20 that I researched and found here in the Parish."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Right, and the last I checked it wasn't even that many and what I'd like to ask us to do is to right; have a workshop, fully understand what a DBE program works because the intent is to help small businesses and to help local businesses, but when you have a true DBE program, you'll find that a lot of the folks that we're trying to help don't have a DBE Certification. I've gone through the process, I believe there's six (6) certified agencies. It's difficult, and so when you have that you have to step back and take a look at who it is you're trying to help, and if putting things in place is actually going to help them or hurt them, because when you implement a full blown DBE program, you cannot let's say; the City of New Orleans and those types of places and you put that in there, well as a contractor, which I am a licensed contractor, you have a DBE requirement in there why you don't just call up a DBE that I know and it really doesn't assist the folks that you're trying to help, and it may actually hurt them if they don't have the certification. It requires; three (3) years of audited financials, just off the top to get a DBE certification through one of the actual recognized certified certifying agencies. And so we know our constituents better than anybody, we have to get people up to that technical level first, before we implement something that could actually hurt the people that we're trying to help. Because having audited financial and all of these things, that requires some steps. And until I actually went to get an MBE, which I thought well MBE, WBE, I said; well I'm a woman off the, you know I got my birth certificate that says how I was born this should be simple right, to become a Woman's Business Enterprise, and it's not. I had to go through so much scrutiny just to get a WBE, DBE, is a whole nother level. So I wanted us to understand when we say Small Business, it doesn't just automatically match up with DBE and you'd be surprised how many big businesses are DBE Certified."

Because for example: let's say you're an Electrical Company, you might do 20 Million Dollars every year, well from my perspective, you're really not a small business anymore, you're big business, you're making 20 Million or 50 Million, but the way DBE looks at it, they look at the entire electrical industry. So maybe in your industry in your competitive set, you are the small guy but the way we see it, we know the folks that are the small business owners truly in our backyard, they're not doing 20 Million Dollars businesses or they wouldn't reach out to us for some assistance. So I think a workshop would be helpful, because I've seen places where this works, and I've seen places where we can actually hurt our own residents. And a lot of the folks that come to all of us for help, they don't have these DBE certifications and it's not that you can't get it, but it is a very technical process. And unless you have CPA's and these types of things, you may not get audited financials, you may not have that. So I think helping people get into FastTrac, having a good understanding of who it is we're trying to help and how to best help them, is the way to go. But I would, like I said; just want to caution us to understand it all because we could put something in place that hurts out residents because you cannot discriminate based on geography when it comes to a DBE program. I saw we had a big project here, it wasn't a parish project but it was a government project and so I said; ok, they had some WBE's set aside, some DBE's set aside, so this'll be an opportunity, everybody came from outside of St. John Parish, but it was a DBE, WBE requirement. But you can't say; got to pick this guy, you got to pick this guy. So, I think a workshop would be good to open up the dialogue on how it is that we can help our local residents, what are the needs, what do we have and let's go from there so that we're not putting something in place to hurt anybody."

Councilman Sorapura stated, "And that's exactly what I'm asking the Council to consider and take a look at and part of that process, Jackie is to help them get the training that they need to get that certification, those that's not certified let them know the opportunities are there. I think DOTD has a program set up..."

Councilwoman Hotard interrupting stated, "DOTD is one, and it's not so much training that you need, once you've been in a particular trade for a certain amount of time, the paperwork is more about your financials. It's not even about being trained for a particular things, they want to make sure that you're going to operate the business, you're going to file a tax return every years on your business, that you're going to pay quarterly taxes, you're going to have workman's compensation, so it's not even so much about training and it's about having those thing in place, which you know some small businesses when you're have all of those types of things okay, so it's not a training element. I'd be more than happy just to, and I tell folks that I know; hey, look if you need some help, I can help you, here's the paperwork I can help you get through it. I serve on the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors, I tell people if you want some help to get licensed, you want to understand, come see me. You know, just because I've been through the red tape, if you will. Sometimes it can appear to be a little more over whelming than what it is, so I'm always willing to just you know give people some advice, just on my experience as a contractor and as a member of the Licensing Board. But it's not a training in a trade that people need, it's understanding that hey if I do want to be able to submit on certain jobs, it's going to require me to be a little bit more diligent with my paperwork, it's going to require me to stop 1099ing people and put people on payroll. It might cost me a little bit more money, but if I want to be a player and I want to submit on certain jobs, I got to have my paperwork in order. You know and sometimes that's a tuff decision for a small business owner, can I afford to give somebody a paycheck or do I need to take my chance and 1099 people? Those are real questions, so it's that type of training if you will, not

trade training. It's positioning each business owner on what's going to work out best for them and that blanket one size fits all; doesn't work for the people we're trying to serve, you know because a lot of them aren't at that level and getting to that level is sometimes difficult as well. So we need to just get a better understanding of everything before we move forward and hurt anybody, I'm always willing to help like I said; I serve on the Licensing Board for Contractors, I have locals contacting me all the time to help; hey, what's this classification? I want to do this type of work, what classification do I need? Can you assist me? Call me anytime, that's what we're there for. We meet once a month and then with the DBE and WBE I have you know that background knowledge as well, because I am certified as a WBE. I started the WBE paperwork, I felt like it was too over whelming, I said well, you need to put that off to the side, but it's something that I'm very familiar with."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And just for, Mr. Sorapuru. I'm not sure the number you have, but the last number we had wasn't 20. So if you have a list, I'd love to see it because we definitely want to make sure that those folks are getting the information that we're putting out. Additionally to add with what Ms. Hotard said, with our small grant loan program, it became very evident to us that a lot of our small businesses do not keep records, which is why we cannot give out the amount of money we had budgeted, because one they didn't have financials; they didn't submit tax returns; it took us a long time to get some of them to the point where they even qualified for these grants and loans. So I think what Ms. Hotard is saying is very accurate, we're trying to encourage as much as possible, our residents to get business like training at our Business Training Center, which starts with Finances (Quick Books) how to keep your records, what's required to have a legitimate business, 1) before you can actually applying for one of those, but I think we could probably offer that type of business at our Business Training Center, but I'd love to see the names you have and make sure they're on our list, because we do send to a variety of organization to notify them of the activity or the work that's going on in the Parish."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "I was just going to agree with Ms. Hotard. It is a very cumbersome process and many businesses over the years we recommended to do that, again didn't keep the records but the Small Development Business Centers will offer that training for free. It's not needed to really pay for that, and I'm not sure the Chamber has a DBE program, but it would be worth checking and you know you've got somebody's experienced it, there's not greater learning then from somebody who's been through it, so I think that would be the best way to handle it."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I believe they do offer some assistance, there's only though as far as being certified as a DBE, I believe it's six (6), it may be five (5) now, like RTE, Sewage & Water Board, RTA..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "The Airport."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "DOTD, maybe I'm missing..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting asked, "Is there something at the Airport?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Yes, Sewage and there's one more, but those are the only ones that can officially certify you as a DBE. The Chamber can assist with right, with paperwork, what do you need to do to get it, but as far as actually being certified you go through one of those agencies and that's where the process starts. I think even having a good open dialogue with our contractors, now of

course you can't you know force someone to hire, but know that we would like to have this spirit of cooperation with our local businesses, that they are given an opportunity to submit. When you have a big contractor that submits let's say on a big building like we have, they've got 20/30 little small subs, you got a plumber, and electrical and all these other things, and then I know out here I see a lot of little ones, but having that be part of the conversation that we do want to see local participation. You can't force them, you know and do all of those kinds of things that would be a violation of a good law, but you can create an environment, a healthy environment where small businesses can flourish. And I think it's, it's one thing that I've always you know I talked about, but I can definitely see where have almost a niche kind of thing in St. John, because right DBE would hurt and that's what I said, I pull the list all the time on how many DBE's we have, because when I submit on things often times if I need a DBE and I have my WBE, I look in the list in St. John and I haven't ever seen that many and so that's why I'm just saying let's...

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Well can submit some names to Jackie, and we'll get with Administration and see how many Council members want to serve on that committee and let's get the workshop going, and see what we can come up with."

Councilman Snyder stated, "So you're saying that if we get a workshop, you want all of us there?"

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "I would like to see if we have a workshop, let everybody get you know some information, updated information that, especially what Jackie shared with us just now and..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Wait, why don't you get with Ms. Hotard and from there we can..."

Councilwoman Hotard interrupting stated, "I think a workshop, you're right."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Look at a workshop."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Well we need to keep administration in the loop."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well I understand that, right! That's good, that might be the best way to handle that."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Not a full blown committee right now."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "So we'll and try and get this done for the..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Yawl set it up."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Next meeting?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "We'll coordinate, but..."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ok, yawl set it up."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Ok, that's fine."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I tell you what, what avenues it takes to get somebody there that might know what they're talking about."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "That's fine."

**Lennix Madere - (Tabled 10-24-17) Enforcement of Ordinance 17-13 junked or derelict vehicles**

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to remove Enforcement of Ordinance 17-13 junked or derelict vehicles from the table. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Alex Carter stated, "As previously stated at the August 8th Council Meeting, the next junked vehicle sweep is scheduled for late November in the Reserve area. Code Enforcement has continued to process and issue all violation types, including junked vehicles since the last sweep."

Councilman Madere asked, "Ok you said late November?"

Alex Carter stated, "November 30<sup>th</sup>. I'm willing to just come out and say it, Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok so at that time you're going to have how many Code Enforcement Officers are going to be there?"

Alex Carter stated, "All of them will be out in Reserve."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok, now I have some questions concerning that. Okay I'm glad they're all going to be there, and I know some individuals in my District will be mad and some will be glad. Okay but junk vehicles have been a problem not just in my district, parish wide, and I think we need to get a handle on it, you know I understand some people may be restoring a vehicle and I know you have something in place concerning that. Okay and I want to make sure that but I'm pretty sure the Code Enforcement Officers are well aware of what in the Ordinance and what they're looking for. Now, one question; for vehicles in front of a house, personal vehicle in the back of a house, what's the difference?"

Alex Carter stated, "So if a vehicle is in front of the house and it's parked in the driveway and it's being worked on, we'll give people seven (7) days to complete the work. Right, if you're hit by a car and you're in a car accident and you really need to change the tire or your window breaks for some reason, you know we understand that, we give people seven (7) days. We'll give you a tag, so you should know we are monitoring it during that seven (7) day period. It's going to say; a seven (7) day monitor. If it's still there and in dis-repair, then you'll get a five (5) day tag and notice that you're actually in violation. If you're behind the house right, or on the side yard, the difference is if it's screened, right so if there's a fence and the Code Enforcement Officers can't see it, then it could be junked and it's ok. The idea though is it's impacted in the neighborhood, so if you've got it screened then it shouldn't be a problem. Now screening is a broad term, so if it's under a carport and his has a vehicle cover, that should be fine as well. If it has a vehicle cover and it's not under a carport and it's in your side yard, it should still be okay because we can't really determine if it's junked. It's really if it's clear to us that there's a flat tire and there are issues and it's having a negative impact on the neighborhood, these are the vehicles that we're looking to tag, give people five (5) day notice rated to short notice and I think that's why you keep it on the agenda, I want to make sure people understand, we have an ad that's going out on the Public Access Channel, were going to be sending out messages to people in the Reserve area via phone, we have a Press Release and we're also working with

Utilities to put a flyer in with billing. So we are trying to make people aware, but like you know I just mentioned, if we continue to issue these violations, so if you are waiting until November 30<sup>th</sup> to move your vehicle I would say don't, because all Inspectors have been advised to continuously enforce throughout the Parish on a regular basis."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok one question, after the violation okay if no one doesn't move their vehicle, what's the next step?"

Alex Carter stated, "Right, so we issue the tag, it's a five (5) day notice period, after five (5) days we call a tow company right? So we get a vendor, we have a vendor list that we rotate with, you know they're very active after our sweeps and then you know they come and they come and pick up the tow, they pick up the vehicle and they bring it to their site. They're the ones that contact the applicants or the applicants will contact them. So at that point, once the tow truck company takes the vehicle it's between the tow truck company and the applicant to figure what they need to do and to get it back or reclaim it, but there are going to be fines and penalties associated from the parish's end to. So I would say it's best to move them and take care of them before and as soon as possible."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay fines and penalties, they do have an I think with the DA in due process."

Alex Carter stated, "Right, so if in a five (5) day period you think you were tagged improperly, right so if you think it's not junked and you've got a tag and you shouldn't have, you can request an appeal with the Code Enforcement Office. It's actually the number on the tag, it says to request an appeal contact us within this five (5) day period and we'll put you on an appeals agenda, cause we do want to make sure we're doing this right and give citizens an opportunity to correct should it not been."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right I think the most important thing, I think the majority of the parish is concerned about abandoned vehicles and you know vehicles that you is not going anywhere, that's been sitting there for ten (10) years and rusting away. Okay I wanted to just make sure that everyone in my District and throughout the parish have a heads up, a warning as to what's coming down and it's not just District III, it's going to be every District going to have a sweep, right?"

Alex Carter stated, "Yes, we're trying to move through the entire parish, you know with a reason why expectation given to our staff. So we've completed once, Reserve is now and we'll decide."

Councilman Madere asked, "Okay and what area was the sweep in the first place?"

Alex Carter stated, "It was in Cambridge."

Councilman Madere asked, "And was it effective?"

Alex Carter stated, "It was effective I believe so. We got a lot positive feedback we got a lot of good questions from the public, we put up common questions and answers that we got on the website, so if people are confused about what it is that's going to be taken out I'd say go the website, from that first week we got a ton of phone calls. So we used those questions and we put answers on the website. So to save everybody time and energy I would say go to the

website, I think it was effective."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay and one other question that I think that may be it. When the Code Enforcement Officer goes out there I know they know how to handle themselves, okay and they run into some difficulties with some individuals, and that's where you come in at?"

Alex Carter stated, "Right, so we do know of cases and there's a history with some cases where that is the case. We do coordinating with the Sheriff's office to send out Inspectors with Deputies. You know safety is always our first concern."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok, thank you. I just wanted to make sure that everyone in my District and throughout the parish have a heads up that this is something that is going to be parish wide not particularly just one district, it's going to be all the districts. Ok, thank you."

Alex Carter stated, "We appreciate it."

Councilman Snyder asked, "When did we bring the Sheriff's office in on that, when they have one on the highway that just haven't been moved for a long period of time?"

Alex Carter stated, "Yes so there is a partnership between Code Enforcement and the Sheriff's office enforcing this. The Code Enforcement Department uses or addresses things that are on private property. So if you're parked in your driveway, backyard or side yard, we get complaints, we work with them because we work with the Assessor's office, we send out violations that way. The Sheriff's office deals with things that are on the street, yes."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Still goes through the Code Enforcers?"

Alex Carter stated, "We work with them. So a lot of times we get complaints on the streets or through our complaint monitoring system online. And so we'll contact the Sheriff's office and communicate that information to them. Sometimes we even put the tags on the vehicles and just call them and say; can you process the rest of this because they have access to like the DMV and the information on who owns the vehicle."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ok good thank you."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ms. Carter, concerning the Sherriff's Department, I think they operate a little faster. Because whenever you call or someone calls me and tells me there's a vehicle with no tires, no license plate and it's parked in the street, whenever I call the Sheriff Department that vehicle was gone within 24 hours, it was gone. So they move a lot faster with vehicles that's abandoned on the public highways and streets, they go a lot faster."

Alex Carter stated, "And I really can't speak to their process for notice and how they address their vendors, but you know I would say we do move quickly, especially in comparison to other jurisdictions and other notice requirements. The five (5) days is the minimum requirement that we can use for this process. So all I can do is speak to what Code Enforcement does."

Councilman Madere asked, "Right, when like I said; when you have this conflict when a Code Enforcement Officer or someone tell them get off their property, do they go back with a police officer?"

Alex Carter stated, "They do in fact go back with the police officer."

Councilman Madere asked, "Ok thank you."

**Lennix Madere - (Tabled 10-24-17) Cellphone/Smartphone training for Parish employees**

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to remove Cellphone/Smartphone training for Parish employees from the table. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay I don't know who can answer this. Why I put this on there may not have been stated clearly enough. Sometimes when we call Directors or some parish employees we don't get a return phone call, I think it was mentioned one time before or either we get a message that the person cell phone has not been set-up yet. Okay and I do believe, you know I have a parish phone okay and I keep it charges all the time. When someone calls me I'm going to answer that phone all the time. And if I have like I had today when I took that tour of DENKA I had five (5) missed phone calls, and I sat down and dialed all five (5) of those individuals as soon as I saw it. Okay so I'll just like to get the same type of service back from everyone that have a parish cellphone that work for the parish. Okay if you get a phone call from Councilman Madere or Councilman Becnel and you miss that call, I expect a return phone call quickly as fast as you can, okay or I don't want to hear that individual cellphone has not been set-up. Okay that bill been paid for you it should have been set-up already, it should have been set-up! So those are unacceptable response not to get a phone call back or to hear that you can't leave a message on the cellphone or you don't have any room for it it's full up, it's filled up. Now you may not want to me but you're going to talk to me sometimes, okay so all I'm saying is that's what I put that on there for to make sure that anything that we carry on our side that the parish is paying for, it should be accessible to the Councilmen to Ms. Robottom to the citizens to anyone. That's why I had that on that, probably didn't state it right but I think I explained it how I feel about it."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well Mr. Madere, Mr. Madere, if you look on the budget some of these departments I know one for sure have \$120,000.00 for telephone calls, \$120,000.00..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "None of those calls came to me."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I don't know what it is but the line item said; telephones. That may be telephones it may be IPads it may be this or that. Our budget is \$20,000.00 I know that. Council budget for telephones, and I guess that's our IPads what it cost us a month, but they got budgets that was \$120,000.00 for telephones, and if we call somebody they should answer their telephone and they shouldn't hear voice mail not set-up, not if we're paying for it. This not the first time we have brought it to the public or to administration, but that's a problem that is a problem, if you think I'm joking check, we got this budget in this book here, look at your budget and look at some of those line items. \$120,000.00, \$20,000.00 for this department for that department. Anyone else?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Just really quickly I'm glad you said that. With the phones and I mentioned this to Jackie, the phone in the Council office, when you call the number we need to have a recording on there as well that let's...you got it set-up?"

Jackie Landeche stated, "Yes ma'am you can call it."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Ok, when did they do it, because the other day when I called..."

Jackie Landeche interrupting stated, "Well then when I called before and then all of a sudden it was removed and when I talked to Rebecca about it she had to set it up in IT, she didn't know how it gotten disconnected. We used to always get them and they came to our messages when the machine came through."

Councilwoman Hotard stated "No I want the message to accurately reflect that you called the Council Office."

Jackie Landeche stated, "It does say that, yes ma'am."

Councilwoman Hotard stated "Ok."

Jackie Landeche stated, "You can call it right now."

**Lennix Madere - (Tabled 10-24-17) Discussion regarding grass cutting issues parishwide**

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to remove Discussion regarding grass cutting issues parish wide from the table. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Councilman Madere stated, "Let me just explain this one. It's not, well it's a little bit about grass cutting but it's about what happened after they cut the grass. Okay I got a phone call today, one of the calls I had to return was and I understand what the guy is saying. The grass was so high they came and cut the grass and instead of raking the grass up and removing it, they raked it and put it close by the canal in Homewood and it fell over in into the canal. Now that's going to be a problem you understand when they have a rain, council will be calling putting Verdell and them back in action to unclog a canal. Whenever that grass is 3 feet or 4 feet high, there's no way you can go in there and cut that and leave that. Okay that's, I put this on the agenda because it happened on East 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Street. Okay the grass was above the fence line and all that guy went up in there and just butchered the grass and left it down on there like if we had a couple of horses was going to go in there and eat up the hay. Okay so my thing is, whenever that grass is that high, there's a picture should be taken if the grass is up here and when they cut that grass they should have a picture taken when that grass has been raked up removed. You can't something that high and just leave it, it doesn't look good and I think two (2) years ago we talked about cutting the lot, cleaning the lot and also cutting around the fence line. Okay and I think we forgot about cutting around the fence line, okay all that was done two (2) years ago and that was supposed to be in their scope of work. Okay and I'm not particular, I'm not saying about any particular company or any individual because I don't know any other grass cutters. Okay I just know what I see after it happened, after the fact, and the call I got today was in Homewood is the lot next to 155 where they cut the grass and basically put the clippings in the canal."

Alex Carter stated, "And I think Code Enforcement is aware of this, we've looked at it and we've adopted a new procedures, we've had all the vendors sign off, they are aware that if they do not fill the requirements of the job, meaning cutting around the fence, clearing out the grass, not dumping into the drains,

then they're not going to get paid. And so, I'm going to look at this one, because I'm learning and it's not to just adopt the procedures because we may have to meet with vendors to emphasize this further, because I don't know if they're reading the procedures. So what you're telling me is that they're not, so we're going to have to take you know...

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "No, no, no, no wait, wait, wait, wait, no, no, no! I'm not I can't tell you they're not reading it."

Alex Carter stated, "Ok."

**Marvin Perrilloux - Discussion in reference to 2018 budgeting for the Airline Hwy. Streetscape Project**

**MOTION:** Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to Table Councilman Perrilloux - Discussion in reference to 2018 budgeting for the Airline Hwy. Streetscape Project. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Perrilloux absent.

**Julia Remondet - Proposed Audit - Utility Billing Department Operations/Procedures**

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "Yes I spoke with Ms. Robottom once before about this, but I wasn't sure about what I was looking to do and we're not saying people are going to get more bills and 12 bills a year, but my main concern is some of the problems people are having they have to take a day off from work to come settle it. I don't like the fact that people should have to do that, we're saying we're getting bills that are read and billed for that timeframe but yet, and I didn't bring them with me but, one person showed me they get a bill from 8/25 to 9/25, the next bill is from 9/15 to 10/15. Well they're feeling they're getting billed extra days, there's no reason they should have started 9/25 to the next date but things like that people are not secure about the bill they're getting, they feel like something is wrong, I just think it would be the right thing to do for the community is to overlook the operation and procedures. And I understand once new meters or registers whatever we get, that's going to help. That's many months away. I just think the people deserve a little bit more information at this time about how it's running. I've seen where I've gone pay several bills for different things recently no one at a counter can tell you anything but call Curtis everybody shouldn't have to call Curtis. Curtis has work to do and everyday questions should be answered by tellers, by different people throughout the department. I just think we could utilize personnel better and get things running a little smoother that the public is secure. They don't feel confident that they're being billed the proper amount, and they're still having otitis and bills, is no reflection on you, you were thrown in the deep in, the department hasn't been you know upgraded in thirty (30) years, it's more that I think we need to do this for the public as well as ourselves to make sure we've got everything in hand. You may have people that could do more work for you than they're doing now, and we just don't know that. I'm not saying I'm concerned about financially where the money is going. I mean you take a water bill you pay it and that's it. I'm just concerned the operations that it could be smoother, less painful for the customer as well as the employees. I'm just looking for some billing service to overview our procedures, and again I know they'll change with the meters or registers. But I think for 2017 we can operate a heck of a lot cleaner in that department. Like I said it's no personal reference it's just time to update, just my thought I don't know who everybody else feels about that."

Curtis Young stated, "Yes what I passed out was just a, it's a billing ID Control, and what it is it's just a long line of Ms. Remondet was saying, just to give some security behind what we're doing and I know a lot of people feel like they're being double billed or double charged in certain matters. So, what this billing ID is, it's a control that it kind of prevents us from double billing for instance the paper you have in front of you, I highlighted the top today's date and the time I actually printed it out to show you that at the Bill ID section you see that says; 20171303, and what that is, is a representation of the year, the month and the cycle. But see when we put in that thirteen (13) you see it gives us the code INVALID and BILL ID, which is pretty much telling us it won't allow us to bill more in than twelve (12) months a year."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "Right, and that makes sense. I don't think that's their fear, they're not sure that the bills are correct. Because they're not finding those matching dates that they had before."

Curtis Young stated, "Right, yes! Yes and that's the confusion that we've been having for a while, we do have it on our website also explaining on the bill how exactly what it means. It's those days it's those days that's down at the bottom that says from this particular time range to this time range that are not matching up with the bills because we were behind. But again I want the public to focus on the number of days that's located at the center portion of the bill by the water and sewer. Those are the days again that you are being billed and charged for, and if you use those amount of days, you'll see that they coincide with what you're billed for and you'll also see that you can't be billed over 365 days a year."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "Well also my concern was we're getting bills after the due date. After the due date, I know you know like I said that's still happening, the bill is due but they've already passed the due date..."

Curtis Young stated, "Right and we're still adding, of course we're still adding the extension at the bottom of the bill, that's still been going on I know a lot of people are missing it because they're used of the way the bills were and they're used of following it that way but, in that case we have provided the extended time, they're still available at the bottom of the bill. Going forward though, we are now extending about a week a week and a half of being right back on time..."

Councilwoman Remondet interrupting asked, "On schedule with everything?"

Curtis Young stated, "On schedule with everything, yes ma'am. My plan for the beginning of the year of us being right back on track with those dates everyone is accustomed."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes Curtis a couple of questions. Do we have in place a process where an individual can set-up a payment plan?"

Curtis Young stated, "We are no longer doing the payment plans, no sir. Okay yeah, there are exceptions like the leak agreements and stuff like that yes sir. But for the most part as far as setting up a payment/arrangement plan..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Well it's for someone who had a leak, right?"

Curtis Young stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay well I'm glad you said that cause I had a phone call one of those missed phone calls that I returned, was a lady her water got turned off. Okay, she had a leak and okay and she had an extremely high bill, she fixed the leak she brought the paper indicating that the leak was fixed she said she was denied a payment plan. They told her she had to pay the whole bill."

Curtis Young stated, "First, there's no paper shows that the leaks fixed. It has to be fixed and the consumption has to be verified on the next reading that it's going back down to normal."

Councilman Madere stated, "No, no, no, no, well let me tell you something let me finish about this. Okay, I know before you got here that if an individual had a leak, and they had a plumber came and repaired the leak, that document was used as a verification that leak was taken care of. That's what I'm referring to."

Curtis Young stated, "Right."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay, and that document was needed in order for them to move forward with the payment plan, because why would I need a payment plan if I don't fix the leak, I didn't fix the problem. You got what I'm saying? So she, I'm only referring back to you what was told to me on the phone, that she had the leak repaired and that she brought the paper indicating that the leak had been repaired by a plumber, okay and she said that she was denied a payment plan and her water got cut off. Now as far as the history of her water payment and whatever else she has I don't know. I'm just giving you the fact what was given to me. And I told her, she said she was told that there is no such thing as a payment plan, I told her I said; well I don't know who you're talking to, there is a such thing as a payment plan okay, and a so I told her I was going to talk to you tonight and then I'm going to give you her information so you can work that out with her..."

Curtis Young stated, "Yeah, do that. Cause I won't be able to tell you exactly what's going on..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "No you right, so I'm going to give you her information at the end of the meeting and you can call her tomorrow and explain to her, okay cause like I said, I didn't see a receipt, I'm just telling you what was told to me that she have documentation that she fixed the leak okay and she was denied a payment plan. Okay and one other question..."

Curtis Young interrupting stated, "Now even though she might have some documentation, like I said, that consumption still has to be verified to show that it goes back to normal. That's how it's indicated that the leak is fixed along with the paperwork that she turns in."

Councilman Madere stated, "I understand that, go back to normal that the fact that when you look at the meter it's not turning if everything off, that's a verification too. Cause if you got a leak that little thing in the middle turning. So if everything is off and I see it's not turning I have a leak, okay that's what I'm saying. That's visible verification. Now one other thing, I had another person came to my house, I get a lot of water bill visits. Okay this one here has an extreme high bill, \$700.00. \$600.00 for the last couple of months, 3 months they've been paying it, okay they have a business and their bill is normally like a hundred and something dollars, you might be familiar with that one cause you told them you were going to send someone out there to change the meter, and I think they did because I stopped by that place on the way over here"

and the guy happen to be out there and he said he think they changed the meter. Okay and I saw nothing was turning, okay so he don't have a leak, he don't have a leak. What I think you told them that you would have to monitor that meter for 2 or 3 months to see what their bill is actually be and then you would make an adjustment. My thing is, why would we have to wait 3 months to look at the new meter to see if, what their level is if you have a record of them prior to their bill going up? That should be the record if they've been paying like \$150.00 a month at her business, but she said all of a sudden she got three bills, boom, boom, boom, \$600, \$700, \$700.00, so why if we put a new meter we have to wait 2 months?

Curtis Young stated, "Again it's depending on the situation, I don't know exactly what customer of, I don't have their records in front of me to tell you why I made a decision I made I made or what I did what I did without looking at it. So I can't."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yeah but I'm just saying, let's just say everything is everything, and all of a sudden I got a \$300 bill an extra-large bill for 3 months and I paid it, and then you come out and change the meter, okay you should have immediately look at my previous billing and see it was \$150, \$140, \$150, \$140."

Curtis Young stated, "I mean that's a lot of dependencies on there. What type of business is it? What type of type of business they do around this particular year? I'm saying it's too many it's too many different factors in there that can determine that determine different answer..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Well I'm going to send them back I'm going to send them back to you cause I don't really, I understand some of those factors you're saying but it's a business that run, been there for about a couple of years sol you have a history of that bill already. Okay so I mean I don't think we need to wait another 3 months to get another history. Okay I think once you put the new meter in you can go back and look at the history, they've been there for about 2 years, so that 2 year period should tell you what their bill was running through the course of a year, 2 years. That's what I'm saying, alright?"

Curtis Young stated, "Yes."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok thank you."

Councilman Malik stated, "So the whole reason behind the approximate 17 day billing was to actually catch up?"

Curtis Young stated, "Sir."

Councilman Malik stated, "I said the whole idea behind the 17 day billing cycle that we were having that was to catch up so that when we would have 12 billing cycles in the year?"

Curtis Young stated, "Correct."

Councilman Malik stated, "Ok so when we enter 2018, we're going to go back to a 30 day billing period?"

Curtis Young stated, "Per say, we're never on a particular 30, 30, 30 day billing

period. It's always an average of maybe 25 to 35 days, but we will return to normalcy...

Councilman Malik interrupting stated, "Thirty-two (32) or something like that as long as it's consistent, it doesn't balance between 17 following the great calendar of approximately 30 days. The estimates, how often are you doing estimates?"

Curtis Young stated, "How often are we doing estimates?"

Councilman Malik stated, "Bill estimates water bills, utilities including the estimates."

Curtis Young stated, "We were doing estimates continuer lay that was part of our process of actually catching up, yes sir."

#### **Larry Sorapuru - Update on culvert cleanout at Hands Drive and Airline Hwy.**

**MOTION:** Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to Table - Larry Sorapuru - Update on culver cleanout at Hands Drive and Airline Hwy. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

#### **Larry Sorapuru/Kurt Becnel - Request report of findings on the Employee Pay Scale survey**

Councilman Becnel stated, "Ok I just wanted, there's no problem though I'm not trying to cause no trouble or anything but, I'm steadily confronted by the employees and they ask me why it's taking so long and I do remember Ms. Cador when I first took office in January, we discussed you weren't working in HR then. And they just wanted to know why it's taking so long and a straight up answer and that's it, that's what they want to hear."

Stacy Cador stated, "Okay you pretty much have the same question? Okay but the offer still stands, but..."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Ms. Cador you want to read this what you got on here?"

Stacy Cador stated, "Yes the document, the draft document was reviewed by Administration and a list of recommendations and amendments have been forwarded to SSA, the Consultant to address discrepancies and concerns. Overall, the Parish's salaries and benefits were deemed competitive with other organizations in the study; however, recommendations to bring a few of the salaries in line with the market will be presented once the final document has been reviewed by Administration, Parish Council, and the Civil Service Board early next year. So I ask for your patience just a little while longer, I take full responsibility. The delay is me."

Councilman Becnel stated, "No problem, no problem."

Stacy Cador stated, "Ok and I do apologize. Ok thank you."

#### **Larry Sorapuru/Kurt Becnel - Update on re-installment of culvert 243 Apricot Street**

**MOTION:** Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to Table - Larry Sorapuru/Kurt Becnel - Update on re-installment of culver 243

Apricot Street. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux and Malik absent.

**Larry Sorapuru/Lennix Madere - Update on Belle Pointe submersible pumps**

LaVerne Toombs stated, "All HMGP projects are awaiting approval by FEMA to move into the construction phase. This project is included in Tier II and construction funding will be allocated once Tier I projects are solidified. We did have a call with OCD today, and they are constantly reviewing these particular projects. Unfortunately due to funding, there may be a delay on that particular project Councilman Sorapuru, but we don't know that for a fact until we actually get the numbers. Once the state gets back with us and let us know the total construction cost, then we'll get back with you and let you know if there's going to be a delay on that particular project or not."

**Larry Snyder - Discussion in reference to the possible hiring of contract workers to assist meter readers**

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Billing Management will begin interviewing this week for two (2) temporary employees to assist with meter reading. We anticipate their start date to be within the next two weeks."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Okay and that would help us get on schedule?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay that's what Mr. Curtis was referencing to, when he said going to be on schedule by the beginning of the year. Ok I'm satisfied with that."

**Larry Snyder - Update on study requested by Council on possible well at Ruddock**

Blake Fogleman - Utilities Director provided an update on the above item during his Departmental Report.

There is no executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Parish Buildings - Security

Any and all pending legal matters

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**17-52** An ordinance granting approval to further extend the valid period of time of Conditional Subdivision Approval for an additional twelve (12) months for River Oaks Subdivision, Phase V, Lots 205-239, 245-252, 264-282, and Parcels H-11, H-13, C, and D, located south of the 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; situated in Sections 66 and 67, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana; which were granted preliminary/conditional approval on August 9, 2005 (Ord. No. 05-46) (N. Robottom)

**17-53** An ordinance granting approval to further extend the valid period of time of Conditional Subdivision Approval for an additional

twelve (12) months for Belle Terre Commercial Subdivision, Phase I, Parcel B, Lots 4-22; Parcel C, Lots 2, 3 & 6-9; and Parcel DS-4; Phase 2, Parcel B, Lots 23-49; and Parcel C, Lots 10-44; and Phase 3, Parcel D, Lots 1-39; Parcel E, Lots 1-42; Parcel DS-2; and Parcel DS-3; all situated in Sections 69 and 70, T-11-S, R-7-E, Southeast District of Louisiana, east of the Mississippi River, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana; which were granted conditional approval on June 12, 2007 (Ord. No. 07-33) and October 9, 2007 (Ord. No. 07-65) (N. Robottom)

**PRESIDENT REPORT:**

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good evening, Veterans Day was celebrated Saturday and was a great event that honored all those who have served our great country. Again this year, the St. John Parish Young Marines directed by Brian Bertrand, St. John Parish, and the Southeast Louisiana War Veterans Home hosted the annual celebration and we want to thank everyone who participated. Our debt to our veterans can never be re-paid but our gratitude and respect can be shown every day. That same day, the 2017 Middendorf's Manchac Run/Walk benefitting Child Advocacy Services took place. I had the opportunity to kick off the run/walk and saw many local running enthusiasts and familiar faces. Senior Citizens are again invited to a Thanksgiving Luncheon sponsored by the Sheriff's Office. The luncheon will be held next Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at REGALA Gym. There will be lots of food, fun, music and prizes. Bingo will start at 10:00 a.m. with a meal following at 11:00 a.m. Now that we are getting closer to the holidays, we want to remind residents to spend their dollars in our Parish by shopping local. We will celebrate Small Business Saturday after Thanksgiving as a reminder to kick off your holiday shopping here. In addition, Residents will begin receiving their Shop Local trivia games with clues to identify local businesses. Residents are asked to complete the trivia game and return them no later than December 28<sup>th</sup>. If the correct answers are selected, participants will be entered into a drawing to win gift cards and other prizes from local retailers. Please drop off your completed trivia games to the Shop Local Collection Boxes located at the Percy Hebert Building or the St. John Courthouse or mail it in to 1801 W. Airline Highway in LaPlace. Winners will be announced on December 29<sup>th</sup>. Businesses can register to participate in the campaign at [www.sjbparish.com/shoplocal](http://www.sjbparish.com/shoplocal). There is no cost to participate. We want to thank all who took time to come out and early vote and thank you for your patience. Although construction of the new Administrative building caused some inconveniences, the larger facility will better accommodate large numbers of visitors. For those that did not vote early, Election Day will take place this Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> for state treasurer run off. A sample ballot and list of polling locations can be found on the Louisiana Secretary of State's website. For those who did not vote early, don't forget tomorrow is Election Day and polling sites will be open from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. A sample ballot and list of polling locations can be found on the Louisiana Secretary of State's website. Thank you for your patience with all of the construction on Belle Terre Blvd. and the on and off ramps. DOTD anticipates the drainage project being complete in December to lead into the asphalt overlay project, and the ramps to be elevated and complete in the Spring. Please continue to monitor the traffic boards in the area for detours and use caution. Reminder: Parish Buildings will be closed next Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving Holidays. Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, there will be no garbage collection on Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Collection will resume on Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> for Thursday and Friday pickup. I want to wish everyone a very safe and Happy Thanksgiving and hope you enjoy the time off with family and friends."

**ADJOURNMENT :**

At 8:55 PM, Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

/s/Larry Snyder  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
COUNCIL SECRETARY