

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd, 2010
CHAIR RONNIE SMITH
VICE CHAIR CHERYL MILLET

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, November 23rd, 2010, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: Ronnie Smith

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

Legal Counsels Judge Tom Daley, Billy O'Reagan and Kerry Brown were present.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes November 9th, 2010, Regular Meeting; Ronnie Smith – Re-appointment of Judy Songy to the River Parishes Tourism Commission

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes November 9th, 2010, Regular Meeting; Ronnie Smith – Re-appointment of Judy Songy to the River Parishes Tourism Commission. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

10-32 (Tabled 11-09-10) An ordinance by adding definitions and additional regulations concerning animal control. The Code of Parish Ordinance is hereby amended by adding the following (C. Millet)

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to remove Ordinance 10-32 from the table. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to remove Ordinance 10-32 from the agenda. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

10-33 (Carry Over 11-09-10) (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance introducing the Annual Operating Budgets for the St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Fund and Parishwide Sewerage Construction Fund for the fiscal year beginning

January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2011. (N. Robottom)

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 10-33. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

Councilman Lee stated, *"My second is to approve the administration's budget, as we realize this budget is an outline of the year to come and it is an estimate, a very good estimate by the way, delivering a balanced budget to this council which we are required to do prior to December 31st. I think administration did a good job of putting it together. I see no major short comings in the budget what so ever and I fully support the budget as is."*

10-34 (Carry Over 11-09-10)(Public Hearing Held)An ordinance amending Sections 14-42(8) and 42-113 of St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, and renaming Chapter 42, Article V, of St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, all to read as follows (N. Robottom)

Natalie Robottom, Parish President, stated, *"This is the non-domestic sewer program. It had been on the agenda once before and I asked for you to give us a little more time for us to review the fiscal impact to our residents. What you found attached to your administrative report is an amendment to the ordinance. As it is our understanding if there are no significant changes and clearly no increases in the prices that it did not require an additional advertisement. So what we are doing is we are actually reducing the application fee from \$150.00 to \$100.00 and we spread out, which was already part of the ordinance, the permit fee over a monthly basis rather than have our business owners have to pay it all at one time. We have also reduced for our minor users, the rate for their usage in the chart. So what you will find in your packet is a copy of the amendment which references the reduced rates and there is also an attached copy of the ordinance as we planned to have you adopt it as well. Again these were amendments that according to our legal counsel did not require us to re-advertise, they are reductions in the rates that are on there and the non-domestic program is one in existence. What we have done is clarified some of the language and provided information for implementation with regard to policies and procedures. So what we are asking you to do is adopt this ordinance as amended with the changes that are in your packet."*

Councilman Lee stated, *"I am not trying to complicate things. I know what you are doing here. This was a carry over ordinance. It was not tabled. It was carried over. There is somewhat of a difference. The ordinance that you all delivered us today for approval is truly not an amended ordinance. It is what we received so before we vote on it I think I would like to get a clarification from our legal counsel as to if we need to vote on it as an amended ordinance or as the ordinance that is introduced, just to make sure that we don't make a mistake on this."*

Tom Daley, District Attorney, stated, *"The President advises me that the ordinance that was published was what you see in front of you without the cross outs and amendments. So what was published and what was advertised needs to be amended in order to comply with administration's recommendation. I did previously advise that if they were going to increase any rates it would have to be re-advertised but*

if they were decreasing I didn't think that was a substantial amendment and would not require re-advertising."

Councilman Lee stated, *"Thank you but for clarification for the public and for my fellow council members we will move forward with the amended ordinance motioned by Ms. Hotard."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"I would like to thank you all and apologize for the misunderstanding here but it was in an effort to make sure that what we did was right by our residents and our business owners. It took a little bit longer than we thought but this is what we wanted in place."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to approve amended ordinance 10-34. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

10-35 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance ordering and calling a special election to fill the vacancy of Councilman-at-Large, Division A, of St. John the Baptist Parish, State of Louisiana, and other matters in connection therewith. (R. Smith)

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 10-35. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

10-36 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of Seven Million Three Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$7,370,000) of Public Improvement Refunding Bonds, Series ST-2010 (the "Bonds"), of the St. John the Baptist Parish Sales Tax District; providing for the sale and issuance of the Bonds'; awarding the sale of the Bonds; fixing certain details of the Bonds; approving the Official Statement; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. (N. Robottom)

Hugh Martin, Bond Attorney, stated, *"As you know this bond issue represents a refunding of a prior issue of sales tax bonds. The underwriters were in the market today and achieved a good savings. We had made an estimate prior to this time when this project began of a savings of approximately about \$400,000.00 a year for the next four years. As a result of the changes in the market conditions it went down slightly but you still will receive a savings of \$387,000.00. Mr. Ackers, who is my partner that worked on this, he will guide you through the rest of this. If there are any questions about it at the end we will be happy to answer them."*

Jason Ackers, Bond Attorney, stated, *"We came before you a couple of months ago and asked your permission and began moving with this refunding opportunity. We are trying to take out three different series of your sales tax revenue bonds, two from 1996 and one from 1999. In connection with your administration, we began moving forward. We prepared this preliminary official statement which you have all seen copies of something similar before. It is actually just a big marketing brochure for the parish. We solicited a rating from Standard & Poor's. They affirmed your AA- rating, which is one of the stronger sales tax revenue bond ratings in the state. So you are to be congratulated for that. In connection with Duncan Williams, here today is E.J. Gregory*

from Duncan Williams, who is one of the larger investment banking firms in the southeast. They went into the market today and the savings have dropped just a little bit and that is simply a reflection of the current markets. That has nothing to do with you. The savings are still \$385,000.00 roughly per year for each of the next four years for a total savings of roughly 1.5 million dollars. Now there are some monies of the parish that are in various reserve funds and so forth that are going to be put to the benefit of the refunding. So when you get to a net present value savings on a percentage basis it is over 5.6% when you have a current refunding like this the state bond commission looks simply for any savings. So you are well above what their requirements are. We have an ordinance before you that is amended from what was previously published because when we went out the first time we didn't know what the principal amount of the bonds was going to be. We didn't know how much was going to be required for the refunding. What kind of premium was going to be involved, etc? So the ordinance has been amended to not only insert the interest rates and the principal amounts of each maturity but also various provisions required by bond insurance. You are purchasing bond insurance in connection with this issue and that is being done just to increase the savings. You will have representation from the underwriters and from our firm that the savings generated by the bond insurance exceeds the premium required for the payment of that bond insurance, which means that it sufficiently lowered the rates enough that it justified the premium cost. Overall, your bond issues that were outstanding, the two 1996's and the 1999, they bore interest at rates from 5% to 5.5%, you are going to be at 2% now. I would be glad to address any questions that you may have."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I think it is a wonderful thing that you have done. Anytime that we can save the parish over a million dollars is a good day."

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve amended Ordinance 10-36. An ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of Seven Million Three Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$7,370,000) of Public Improvement Refunding Bonds, Series ST-2010 (the "Bonds"), of the St. John the Baptist Parish Sales Tax District; providing for the sale and issuance of the Bonds'; awarding the sale of the Bonds; fixing certain details of the Bonds; approving the Official Statement; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. WHEREAS, the St. John the Baptist Parish Council (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of the St. John the Baptist Sales Tax District (the "Issuer"), adopted Ordinance No. 96-99 on September 24, 1996, authorizing the issuance of Two Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,700,000) of Public Improvement Bonds, Series ST-1996 (the "Series ST-1996 Bonds"), Ordinance No. 96-116 on November 12, 1996, authorizing the issuance of Six Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$6,800,000) of Public Improvement Refunding Bonds, Series ST-1996 (the "Series ST-1996 Refunding Bonds") and Ordinance No. 99-48 on July 27, 1999, authorizing the issuance of Fourteen Million Nine Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$14,925,000) of Public Improvement Refunding Bonds, Series ST-1999 (the "Series ST-1999 Bonds")(collectively, the "Refunded Bond Ordinances"), secured by an irrevocable pledge and dedication of the avails or proceeds of the special one percent (1%) sales and use tax being levied and collected by the Issuer, pursuant to elections held in

the Issuer on November 16, 1985, and January 19, 2002 (the "Tax"); and WHEREAS, the Issuer has found and determined that the refunding of \$845,000 of the Series ST-1996 Bonds, consisting of those Series ST-1996 Bonds which mature December 1, 2011, to December 1, 2014, inclusive, \$2,010,000 of the Series ST-1996 Refunded Bonds, consisting of those Series ST-1996 Bonds which mature December 1, 2011, to December 1, 2014, inclusive, and \$5,325,000 of the Series ST-1999 Bonds, consisting of those Series ST-1999 Bonds with mature December 1, 2011, to December 1, 2014, inclusive, all as further described in Exhibit A hereto (collectively, the "Refunded Bonds"), would be financially advantageous to the Issuer; and WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 14-A of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority, the Issuer desires by this ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of Seven Million Three Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$7,370,000) principal amount of its public improvement refunding bonds, to be designated "Public Improvement Refunding Bonds, Series ST-2010" (the "Bonds"), for the purpose of refunding the Refunded Bonds and paying the costs of issuance therefore, and to specify the terms and conditions of the Bonds; and WHEREAS, this Parish Council has determined that all terms and conditions specified in Ordinance No. 10-01 of this Parish Council (the "Outstanding Parity Bond Ordinance") have been or will be complied with prior to the delivery of the Bonds herein authorized, and it is the express desire and intent of this Parish Council that the Bonds herein authorized be issued on a complete parity with the outstanding Public Improvement Bonds, Series ST-2010 (the "Outstanding Parity Bonds"); and WHEREAS, in connection with the issuance of the Bonds, it is necessary that provision be made for the payment of the principal, interest and redemption premium of the Refunded Bonds described in Exhibit A hereto, and to provide for the call for redemption of the Refunded Bonds pursuant to a Notice of Call for Redemption; and WHEREAS, this Governing Authority finds and determines that the acquisition of bond insurance will benefit the financed programs and the Issuer; and WHEREAS, this Governing Authority has determined that all of the terms and conditions specified in the Refunded Bond Ordinances and the Outstanding Parity Bond Ordinance have been or will be complied with prior to the delivery of the Bonds; and WHEREAS, the Louisiana State Bond Commission has approved the sale and issuance of the Bonds; and WHEREAS, this Governing Authority desires to award the sale of the Bonds to the Underwriter (as defined herein); NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the means of St. John the Baptist Parish Council, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of the St. John the Baptist Parish Sales Tax District, State of Louisiana, that. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

10-37 An ordinance by adding definitions and additional regulations concerning animal control. (C. Millet)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Lee stated, *"The finance committee met at 6:00 this evening. As you recall we had quite an extensive meeting some thirty or forty different items which involved primarily bid openings. We managed to get it in the allotted time. At this time I would ask one of my fellow council members to make a motion ratifying the actions taken by the*

council at the finance meeting."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to award the bid for the Country Club Bridge repairs to Gray Construction Company out of Morgan City with a total project cost of \$323,696.00, approved to accept administrations recommendation and go with Delta Dental for the parish's dental insurance, approved to accept administrations recommendation and go with United Health Care (UHC) for the parish's medical insurance, approved to take the bids for Riverlands Drainage Improvements under advisement, approved to take the bids for the Reserve area drainage improvements under advisement, approved to take the bids for the West Bank Airnasium under advisement, approved to take the bids for the Trucks for the WAPMAX Grant under advisement, approved to take the bids for fuel under advisement, approved to take the bids for Granular Chlorine & 3" Bio-sanitizer Disinfecting Tablets under advisement, approved to take the bids for corrugated metal, Polyethylene (PE) and Polyvinylchloride (PVC) Culverts under advisement, approved to take the bids for pumps and related materials under advisement, approved to take the bids for Liquid Chlorine and Sulfur Dioxide under advisement, approved to grant administration authorization to approve Amendment #2, for resident inspection services for the Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation Principal Engineering, approved administration's clarification that they went with the 23/49 Delta Dental Plan submitted by Kennedy Financial. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Elois Joseph, Director of Health & Human Services, stated, *"I have a report from the Department of Health and Human Services. It is the 2010 Cumulative Services Report. Everyone should have a copy. LIHEAP Entergy that is helping clients with gas and light bills - Edgard - 85 clients, Garyville - 86, LaPlace - 650, Mt. Airy - 18, Reserve - 283, Vacherie - 16 for a total number of 1,138 - total funds expended \$406,023.49. Next is commodities. That is the passing of food items from second harvest. Edgard - 14, Garyville - 14, LaPlace - 154, Mt. Airy - 11, Reserve - 107 for a total number of 300. We have a value on the commodities it is about 16 to \$17,000.00 that we receive and we pass out six times a year. The weatherization program that is stopping heat and air from going in and out of clients houses, the average payment is \$6,500.00 to \$8,000.00. Edgard - 1, Garyville - 1, LaPlace - 10, Reserve - 5, Vacherie - 1 for a total of 18 - total funds expended \$110,438.70. Emergency utility assistance - these funds are from parish government. Garyville - 8, LaPlace - 57, Mt. Airy - 1, Reserve - 25, Vacherie - 1 for a total of 92 - total funds expended \$16,046.94. Emergency Assistance to Fire victims only we buy clothing. LaPlace - 2, Reserve - 1 for a total of 3 - total funds expended \$700.00. Emergency Food is also from local government. Edgard - 12, Garyville - 10, LaPlace - 92, Mt. Airy - 1, Reserve - 37, Wallace - 1 for a total of 153 - total funds expended \$18,615.60. This is the ARRA fund that we receive from work force investment, it ended September 30th. The first is ARRA book stipend/Education. Garyville - 3, Killona - 2, LaPlace - 37, Mt. Airy - 1, Reserve - 13, Wallace - 2 for a total of 58 - total funds expended \$13,488.42. Emergency Food ARRA. Edgard - 2, LaPlace - 13, Reserve - 4 for a total of 19 - total funds expended \$2,550.00. ARRA Entergy assistance - Edgard - 3, Garyville - 2, LaPlace - 59, Mt. Airy - 39,*

Wallace – 1 for a total of 104 – total funds expended \$21,893.61. ARRA rental/mortgage assistance we help with an average of \$17,000.00 per home. Edgard – 2, Garyville – 3, LaPlace – 37, Reserve – 10, Vacherie – 1 for a total of 53 – total funds expended \$44,817.48. ARRA Transportation that is with our RPT system – Edgard – 2, Garyville – 11, LaPlace – 29, Reserve – 10 for a total of 52 – total funds expended \$2,000.00. ARRA Emergency Medicine assistance – LaPlace – 2, Reserve – 1 for a total of 3 – total funds expended \$559.34. Total number of clients served from this is 1,993 and the total amount of expenditures was \$231,110.09. Do you have any questions? Thank you for your time.”

Raydell Morris – Praise Place Subdivision

Councilman Morris stated, “I would like Mr. Mike Henderson to come up and give me a report on the subdivision. It was brought to my attention by several neighbors that there are two houses with one driveway. I would like an update.”

Mike Henderson, Planning & Zoning Director, stated, “Administration did review the driveways in question and finds that they are in compliance with our current ordinance for driveway width, the driveway configuration was approved by DOTD as a means to limiting the number of driveway entrances off of a state highway. The subdivision plans were approved by the planning commission and the Parish Council. The preliminary plat, conditional and final were all approved by the Parish Council.”

Raydell Morris – Captain Bourgeois St. – Zoning

Councilman Morris stated, “I would like at this time to ask administration to go out and do a physical inspection of the property and give me a written report of the description and the type of work that they are doing and also I would like him to contact the neighbors to find out their opinion and their feeling on it and have it for me at the next meeting.”

Councilwoman Usry asked, “What are they doing?”

Councilman Morris stated, “Can I reserve the right to answer that question later? There may be a legal problem which is why we are handling it this way.”

Charles Julien – Update on the lighting on LA 3179

Councilman Julien stated, “I was trying to find out if we could contact the owner of Praise Place and Entergy to see what we could do to expedite the placing of the lights. I was informed approximately four or five months ago that as they are building lights would be put up but I think that they are moving much too slow. So we need to just make sure that we will get lights and that we will get enough to light up the street. So if administration would please do that.”

Marie Brown-Mercadel, CAO, stated, “We are actually waiting for approval from DOTD to install lighting in that area. They have to provide us with a permit. We are waiting for that approval and will continue to kind of bird dog that and try to get it expedited.”

Councilman Julien asked, "Do you have any idea about how long it would be before the permits are in?"

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "They said that they were approximately six to eight weeks behind. So we will continue to follow up after the Thanksgiving holiday to see if we can get a better idea of how long that permit will take."

Cheryl Millet – Update on the Ridgefield Canal Cleaning and North of I-10

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "The cleaning of the canal is nearing completion. I think that you saw some debris in that area. There is still some debris there that what happens is once they clean it they put it to the side and let it dry out and then they take it to the incinerator to be burned. We are planning to have all of the materials and debris removed by Wednesday."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Which canals are being cleaned right now?"

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "We have a PO out with RamJ right now. They are cleaning I want to say the LaPlace Plantation Canal, Belle Terre Canal, Hope Canal..."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Is RamJ cleaning Hope Canal?"

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "No, Farquet is cleaning Hope Canal. I think that they are about a week and a half to two weeks from completion on the Hope Canal. The Godchaux Canal has already been cleaned."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Who cleaned that one?"

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "RamJ cleaned the Godchaux Canal."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Mrs. Mercadel the area North of I-10?"

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "We had a RFQ that went out and we are waiting to try to finalize a couple of potential legal issues before we award a purchase order for that to be cleaned. We are hoping that that happens in the first week of December."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "So the other canals that you have left to be cleaned, I see it says here you will release purchase orders. So it will be a purchase order not a contract?"

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "Yes."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Do you know when that is going to start? I guess the first week in December?"

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "That is what we are looking for. We have some issues that we are working with the District Attorney to clear up in terms of the servitude access and once those are cleared up we will reward the purchase order."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Do we know who is going to do that work and

which canals those are?"

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "Yes, the Levee Canal, the T beau canal, I-10 North, east to west, the Ridgefield Canal and I think that is probably going to be awarded to Guilliot Construction out of Belle Chase."

Councilman Julien asked, "Have we asked Guilliot or whoever is doing these canals to make sure that they look local. If they are subbing work that they could look local to sub to?"

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "I will make that request."

OLD BUSINESS:

Haston Lewis – (Carry Over 11-9-10) Overturn of Planning & Zoning's denial of a trailer placement for Curtis Young Sr. – 220 Spruce Street – LaPlace

Councilman Lewis stated, "I would like to make a motion that we overturn Planning & Zoning's denial."

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Morris seconded the motion to overturn Planning & Zoning's denial of a trailer placement for Curtis Young Sr. – 220 Spruce Street – LaPlace. The motion passed with 4 yeas, 3 against (Usry, Cheryl Millet, Danny Millet), 1 abstaining (Hotard) and 1 absent (Smith).

Charles Julien – Disabled Business Enterprises/Minority Business Enterprises (Small Businesses)

Councilman Julien stated, "This is something that we have been working on. I want to basically notify the public that we intend to set up a meeting so that anyone who would like to have input while we are preparing this program to be able to come and have some input. We would also like council members if they would like some input and administration. I want to put the public on notice that we will have a date and we will advertise it through the parish website to make sure that everyone that wants to be involved in the process can be involved. Thank you."

NEW BUSINESS:

Raydell Morris – Housing Authority Board

Councilman Morris stated, "At the last meeting I decided to take no action on this meeting but today I am going to go ahead and do what I have to do after further concurring with legal. First of all I have to say something. I think that the last time at the meeting when I was attacked I think the attorney or the chair should have stopped it. I don't think this is the place to let public and personal attacks continue. It should have been stopped because it was off there was no subject on the table. Second of all that I am going to say that I thought this was an action that needed to be done after looking at the report that the housing authority, that HUD gave the housing authority. As a past board member of the housing authority, I reviewed this report. In the report it talks about finance. It says that federal

grants were given to this agency roughly over two million dollars, three hundred and ten thousand dollars of a particular grant was misspended. Basically that designated funds that was used inappropriately and out of guidelines. I expected this board once they received this report to take action on it. To call a special meeting to discuss where the funds went and what they are going to do to pay it back. Second of all, the contractor that was issued the contract with these funds today is still not paid his last invoice. That is a very serious problem. Next in the report it says that the budget for 2010 - 2011 was supposed to be submitted to HUD sixty days prior to the end of the fiscal year. The fiscal year ends September 31st. The budget should have been submitted to HUD in August...

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I hate to interrupt you Mr. Morris but you are asking, I am trying to understand, you are giving a report against an agency that we don't have any influence with and I am concerned as to what you are asking this council to do at this point."

Councilman Morris stated, "If you would be a little patient with me I will get to that point, but I want to make my case. Today this board has not passed a resolution to submit to HUD a budget. We are almost sixty days in the past. So therefore we are 120 days late submitting. This report goes further on. It talks about Section 8. It talks about low rent. It is in depth. The board has received this report and today they have not filed a rebuttal. They have not taken any action on any of the items. The report in its final pages says this board is a dysfunctional board and it is jeopardizing future funding. To me that is a serious problem. I represent all four of the developments. They have people; they have kids that depend on these units for shelter from the weather. This is where they live. This is their home. This is the only board that this council appoints and doesn't have any jurisdiction over the board other than appointing. I know some of you council members are saying why us? Why should we have to deal with this and we don't have any jurisdiction over them. All we do is appoint. I can't answer that question. You will have to ask someone in the Legislature they decided that but if HUD is saying that this board is dysfunctional than that means that this council appointed a board that is not working in good manner and is not working in the best interest of the people in the development and in the parish because Section 8 doesn't just live in housing, they live throughout the parish. Section 8 is where the federal government pays rent for residents to live in different areas of the community. Therefore I am asking this board to support me in my motion to remove this board from service and at the next meeting we consider re-appointing or our options. Thank you."

Councilman Lewis stated, "You know I am listening to what Mr. Morris is saying but since we have no authority unless this board really did something wrong that we can prove we can't remove this board. They are there for five years and unless I see some type of recommendation from HUD or some type of law I think it is hard for us to even take a vote on it."

Councilman Julien stated, "I think that when Mr. Wolfe and this is my opinion, when Mr. Wolfe appointed Mr. Morris I don't think that he could ever foresee the board member coming and saying that he was attacked because I don't think that is what it was meant to be. I just think that there was a misunderstanding in what was said. I think that,

as Mr. Lewis said, if we don't have something from HUD, then I don't think we should act on this. I think that if we don't have a recommendation to remove the board, some of the actions were taken by previous board because we have three new members I don't think over a year old. I think that this is a board who Mr. Lee has said many time we really don't govern. This is a federal program. So we can appoint commissioners yet we don't have a lot of control over what they do. As far as Mr. Morris goes and as far as two million dollars goes we would have to look at what the report says and I am sure the DA is here and I will ask him to come up and give us some understanding of what that report says because I have heard different things on what the report says. I have heard that the report said that it was a dysfunctional board, that some of the actions the two million dollars monies that were spent, these people had nothing to do with it but I think that if you meant good faith or if you were trying to do the right thing than you would not have kept this a secret because when I called you and asked you about what was going on with this I didn't hear anything about it. I spoke to five council members last night who did not know anything about this letter. So if we want to operate in good faith than we have to lay all the cards on the table and at least be honest with each other. If we agree or not we at least have to be honest but I think it is unfortunate that you come at this time and you are asking that we remove five people who have given themselves because they are not getting paid because possibly of personal vendetta is what it seems like to me. The only thing that the small people have is their vote. So when we come and when we look at all of this stuff we can't just fight somebody just because my friend is not on the board. Again this is just my opinion. We can't fight somebody or want to remove someone because they don't agree with me. What we want is people who are put in the position that will act and operate with integrity and that will do the best for the community and the people that they represent. The people of 1, 2 and 3 that have developments."

Councilman Lewis stated, "I think we need to get legal advice from our attorney instead of keep going through this so that we know where we are going. I really think this is out of our hands."

Tom Daley stated, "The Louisiana revised statute 40:537, authorizes the appointing authority to remove commissioners from the local housing authority for neglect of duty, misconduct in office or conviction of any felony. I will restate those reasons for cause negligence of duty, misconduct in office or conviction of any felony. The process that the council would go forward with should, if they choose to exercise the procedure is, the governing authority which seeks to remove a commissioner shall send a notice of removal to said commissioner which notice shall set forth the charges against him or her unless within ten days from receipt of such notice such commissioner files with the clerk or secretary for the governing authority a request for a hearing the commissioner shall be deemed removed. If a request for a hearing is filed the governing authority shall hold a hearing no sooner than ten days subsequent to the date of the request at which the commissioner shall have the right to appear in person or by council and the governing body shall determine whether the removal shall be upheld. If the removal is not upheld by the governing body, the commissioner shall continue to hold office. That is the procedure by which the law sets forth how this council should act. Again if a majority of the council agrees that there is cause then that commissioner or commissioners are

put on notice, written notice, and they have ten days to request a hearing to contest that notice. That cause must be removal for neglect of duty, misconduct in office or conviction of any felony."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "At this time, Mr. Morris, are you asking for a motion to have these members put on notice?"

Councilman Morris stated, "That is correct yes."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So your motion it to issue a notification to the commissioners to put them on notice?"

Councilman Morris stated, "Yes."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Do we have a second?"

Councilman Millet stated, "I'll second."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Just in discussion and I know Mr. Morris we have tried to connect and we haven't been able to. I haven't seen the report from HUD so it isn't that I don't want to support your efforts or I condone the board doing things that they are not supposed to do but I just don't really know. I am just hearing you tell me. I don't want to take action on just what someone has told me not that I don't trust what you are saying but I want to be able to look at the facts in front of me and consult with legal and do a little bit more homework. I don't want to say they are guilty of doing anything when I really don't know. So I can't support your motion at this time and those are the reasons. So if you choose to leave something on the agenda or give the council some time to do some fact finding and do a little bit more homework and that is just speaking for me just because I can't support it at this time and I know you want to have support on this that is the reason that I can't support it at this time just because I don't have the facts in front of me. I don't think it would be fair if I were a board member at the housing authority and someone presented to them something about myself and they just took action on it without seeing any facts. So I am just giving those members the same courtesy that I would want to be given to me because again I haven't seen any report or anything from HUD. I don't know if Jackie received anything in the council office from HUD. I want to have something formal from them with that information before I can take any action on this."

Councilwoman Usry asked, "At the last meeting you requested that we would receive a copy of something, is that what you were talking about?"

Councilman Morris stated, "Yes. The Housing Authority, the board and the Parish received a copy of the package."

Councilman Julien stated, "If it wasn't done so secretly and underhanded maybe we would have received it."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I am not suggesting that Mr. Julien."

Councilman Julien stated, "I'm suggesting it."

Natalie Robottom stated, "A copy of that report was forwarded to the parish president and stamped confidential. So yes I have a copy of that report. I have not copied it or shared it with anyone."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Did it come from HUD?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "So it did come from the agency? It wasn't from someone else?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes, it was an official copy. It was stamped confidential to me."

Councilman Lewis stated, "You know I don't have a problem with something confidential but I would hate to know that HUD said look we need to move the board or do something and knowing that the housing authority is bankrupt and they have people in there that don't even know if their lights are going to be burning next week and we don't even know anything. I think we need to know something. HUD or somebody should tell us something if we need to act since we appoint those board members. If they don't want them there tell us they don't want them there and we will do what we have to do but don't leave us hanging."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And Mr. Lewis as I think about it now, that may have been an error on their part in that in most other parishes the governing authority is the parish president. It is possible that report was intended to go to you all rather than me but it came to me stamped confidential with a copy I think to the agency who I felt it was their responsibility to share that and the commissioners who you are their appointing authority."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Actually and to add to what Natalie is saying at one time here the parish president was the appointing authority of the board and then the council had it changed, so being as so many of the other boards are appointed by the parish president that makes a lot of sense that they would send it to you. Again, back to you Mr. Morris, I would just rather look at something from HUD or look at some type of facts in front of me before I make any type of decision. I am not suggesting that you did anything to keep information from me or the council. I just can't make a decision without any information in front of me."

Natalie Robottom stated, "What we will do as soon as possible is make contact with the individuals who forwarded that report and share the differences in St. John Parish and get their permission to copy it and once that is given you will all receive it."

Councilman Morris stated, "My counterpart Mr. Julien made some accusations that I have a vendetta because of my friends. I don't have a vendetta because a board member is not there. I have a vendetta when it comes to when you ride through an agency and you look at the appearance and I read in the report and the report says that it will jeopardize future funding. That means we are supporting people to live in poverty. That is what it is saying to this board. If you don't take action you are saying because you don't support, you don't live in the district you take no action towards it. It is people's livelihood and

people's shelter. If this agency is mismanaged on any report they have several personal items that I didn't bring out tonight because I didn't want to go there but if Mr. Julien you want me to, I can. Do you want me to go there Mr. Julien?"

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Mr. Morris the problem is you are privy to this information and the rest of this council is not."

Councilman Morris stated, "I care."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "No, no we do not have the information to make a decision on, you have. You have had time to look it over. We have not is the consensus of this council. Now at this time we can call for a vote if you like or we can continue but the accusations need to stop on both sides."

Councilman Morris stated, "My point exactly. When I was attacked at the last meeting nobody said anything. So tonight I am going to say what I have to say out of order or not and you were not present but that is how it goes and that is how it is going to be. After I was thrown a brick at, none of the other council members, everybody was present and just stood by and didn't say anything. Guess what I got up and I got up a little bit better. So that night when I went into the meeting I went in a rookie and I left a veteran. So I am not going to be run over. I am going to say what I have to say and who likes it likes it and who doesn't like it, I personally don't care. Now there is a motion, you vote for it if you want but if you vote no you are saying that you are accepting the way the people in the housing development are living."

Councilman Lewis stated, "Wait awhile, I need to say something about this. If you got information and I didn't get it, where did you get the information from?"

Councilman Morris stated, "Well guess what you need to ride in your development and you need to look at it and you need to go back and do your research."

Councilman Lewis asked, "That is not what I asked you. I need to find out where did you get that information from? According to Mrs. Robottom it is confidential and you got a copy. How did you get a copy?"

Councilman Morris stated, "I'm good."

Councilman Lewis stated, "Alright, then I'm not going to vote on it."

MOTION: Councilman Morris moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to put the Housing Authority Board commissioners on notice for the removal of their services. The motion passed with 5 yeas (Morris, Hotard, Lee, Usry, Danny Millet), 3 neas (Lewis, Julien, Cheryl Millet) and 1 absent (Smith).

Councilman Morris stated, "Thank you Council."

Raydell Morris – Adjudicated Properties – Choice Title/Baloney-Broussard Law Firm

Angelic Sutherland, Assistant to the Parish President, stated, "I'm

just here to give you a status update on the adjudicated properties program. Administration has met with both firms, being Choice Title and most recently the Baloney-Broussard Law Firm, and we are awaiting final revisions to the proposed ordinance for the adjudicated properties program. At the time of our most recent meeting with Baloney-Broussard they were anticipating a meeting with the Sheriff to discuss whatever portions of the ordinance that he would be required to carry out. A request was also made for a fee comparison for other parishes that are implementing the program in accordance with the new statutes. Once the proposed ordinance is in its final form, administration is going to schedule workshops with the council to review the components of the ordinance and respond to any questions that you may have prior to it being introduced."

Marie Brown-Mercadel – Authorization to execute a lease agreement between George A. Lasseigne, Jr. and Doris Carville and St. John the Baptist Parish for space adjacent to the Planning & Zoning Office which will be utilized for staff parking

Marie Brown-Mercadel, stated, "Council at the last meeting we came and received authorization to enter into a lease agreement for a trailer to move the code enforcement staff from public works to planning and zoning. So at this meeting we are asking to be able to lease some adjacent property for parking. It is about \$100.00 a month, \$1,200.00 a year. We want to enter into a two year lease agreement."

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to execute a lease agreement between George A. Lasseigne, Jr. and Doris Carville and St. John the Baptist Parish for space adjacent to the Planning & Zoning Office which will be utilized for staff parking. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

Marie Brown-Mercadel – Authorization to renew the Parish Engineering contract with C. J. Savoie Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "We are asking at this time to renew the professional engineering services agreement with Chuck Savoie in the amount of \$120,960.00 per year for three years with one option year for renewal."

MOTION: Councilman Morris moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to renew the Parish Engineering contract with C. J. Savoie Consulting Engineers, Inc. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

Marie Brown-Mercadel – Approval of Policies and Procedures for the St. John the Baptist Parish Housing Mitigation Program funded by the Louisiana Recovery Authority

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "As you know we have been allocated one million dollars to fund the housing mitigation program from the Louisiana Recovery Authority. They ask that we put in place rules regarding the governing of this program. Those policies and procedures are in your handbook and we are asking for this approval so that we can submit our final application to the state."

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Morris seconded the motion to approve the Policies and Procedures for the St. John the Baptist Parish Housing Mitigation Program. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

Marie Brown-Mercadel – Authorization to execute a lease agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish/Port of South Louisiana and ITT Corporation for installation of an eighty foot radio tower at the St. John Airport

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "This no cost lease agreement will allow the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to lease a portion of ground for the installation of an 85 foot radio tower. This agreement is to be renewed on an annual basis, not to extend past September of 2025."

Councilman Morris stated, "I was contacted by one of the land owners earlier and his concern was he is a sugar cane farmer, his concern was how will this affect his crop dusting in the area and exactly where is it going?"

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "When we received this agreement it didn't indicate that there would be any impact to the surrounding land owners or farmers but I can double check with that to make sure that there aren't any problems that we foresee as a result of this agreement. If you can give me his name and information I will follow up on that tomorrow."

Councilman Millet stated, "I had the same concerns as Mr. Morris. I had a land owner contact me also about that same problem. They were wondering exactly where it was located because it might interfere with some of their crop dusting also."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually, we apologize for that, within the agreement there was an exhibit that specified where it was however it is unclear in the packet that is here. So if you would like to table this until the next meeting. It will give us an opportunity to get that drawing and we will be happy to provide that for you."

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "Okay and if you can get that information to me we will look into it and get back to you."

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to table the authorization to execute a lease agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish/Port of South Louisiana and ITT Corporation for installation of an eighty foot radio tower at the St. John Airport. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

Pat McTopy – Authorization to execute a time extension for the Water Storage Tank Repair and Rehabilitation, Priority 1

Pat McTopy stated, "This is a request for a no cost time extension between the parish and Blastco. Blastco is doing the Priority 1 water tanks for us. For the parish's convenience, we asked Blastco to hold up on painting the water tower in the back of this building here, one of the main towers for LaPlace. We didn't want him taking it out of service during the summer months when demand was high. We asked him to work with us to do it during a period when demand is low, as in the

next month or two. He has agreed to that and that is why we are asking for a no cost time extension for the parish's convenience."

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Morris seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to execute a time extension for the Water Storage Tank Repair and Rehabilitation, Priority 1. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent."

CORRESPONDANCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Millet stated, "I have two things. I would like to get an update on the Historic East Project from administration at the next meeting, also for the Hope Canal Project. Thank you."

Councilman Julien stated, "I am disappointed on the vote for the housing authority. I am disappointed that Ms. Hotard who had never had an opportunity to view anything from HUD who said that she could not support it, turned around and voted for it. I am disappointed that we have issues in District II and that you are not working hard enough for the people of District II, Danny Millet. I am not disappointed in you Mr. Raydell because you did hide the information. I am disappointed that you hid it and had to bring it out at the last minute. Thank you."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is this Thursday. I would like to say something nice about that. I really don't need to defend myself to you, Councilman Julien, but I will say that Councilman Morris's motion is to put those members on notice. So after I thought about it further and because we did not remove them tonight and the vote we are only authorizing this council to put them on notice and then allow them to go through the process that is a little bit different than us convicting them and saying they did all of these things. I don't have the information in front of me. So now we at least put them on notice it gives the administration and HUD some time to get the information to the council and then they can go through the process. Have a nice Thanksgiving and eat everything in front of you."

Councilman Morris stated, "Please put Rev. Bering, who lost his wife Thursday, they are having the funeral tomorrow, please keep them in your prayers tonight. Thank you."

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Natalie Robottom stated, "We are going to start out with some more positive remarks here. First I would like to commend the Reserve 150 Committee members and all the sponsors for a job well done on their weeks and months of activities celebrating the 150th year of Reserve. One of the highlights to that celebration was the documentary that was shown at the St. John Theatre and at the fun day. If you haven't had an opportunity to view it, which I did, it is worth your effort. I understand that many of the copies have gone but you can request them and they are accepting donations for it. I think it is truly a treasure to have. Hundreds of people shared in the fun day at Regala Park two Sundays ago and of course we want to thank all of our employees who helped to get the park ready and cleared up as well as volunteers and employees of other departments who helped to make it a success. I did receive a notice from the committee to all of our public officials. It

is titled leave your legacy and what they are doing is creating a 150 year time capsule and what they are asking is for you to provide unframed photos no larger than 8x10 with the name of the persons written on the back, letters to be placed in a sealed envelope with your name on the outside with a limit of two pages, only one entry per person. You can drop off your legacy to any of the Reserve churches. The deadline is December 8th. There will be a ceremony on December 11th at 123 Redemption Way in Reserve, home of the historic Our Lady of Grace Church building to bury that time capsule. You can visit the Reserve150.org website for additional activities. I think there are a few more things going on regarding the celebration and of course there is a link on our website and we will encourage you to sign up for our updates. I want to say a very special thank you to all of our employees who contributed to our food drive. We were successful in delivering six large boxes of food to the Ministry of Care and that was boxes spread throughout our parish. Ministry of Care is located at 217 W. 5th Street. They accept and distribute food donations throughout the year. If you are interested in donating or are in need of food for the holiday season their number is 985-652-2729. We celebrated Adoption Awareness month on the 17th out on the front lawn. I issued a proclamation declaring November as Adoption Awareness Month in St. John the Baptist Parish. Forty-five adoptive parents in the Thibodaux region were honored with a balloon release, while twenty children remain in foster care. This ceremony, along with others throughout the state, was held to bring attention to the need for adoptive parents. There was also a fun activity this Saturday called guns and hoses were the SJB Crime fighters and fire fighters participated in a flag football game. The game was an opportunity to raise money and donations of can goods and toys for those in need during the holidays. The crime fighters donated the toys to "Toys for Tots" and the fire fighters are donating the can goods to the Ministry of Care food bank. The crime fighters were the winners. The Pleasure Bend Home Owners Association meeting was held this past Saturday and of course Mrs. Schoen, who attends all of our meetings, invited us. It was attended by two members of my administrative staff and from that they brought back some of the concerns. It is always an opportunity for us to discuss concerns and bring back and address some of their request. We participated yesterday in the grand opening of Gilligan's. It is on the lake. The owner Kevin Amacker and his staff was present and again we want to extend our welcome and the best of luck to them. It is located on Peavine Road near Lake Pontchartrain. The West Bank Civic Association also held their monthly meeting last night. They invited other associations to attend. We were there and it was a great opportunity to discuss the current projects and the future projects and of course some concerns. We are encouraging all of our associations to do the same and neighborhoods without associations to develop them so that we could come out and have a forum to address their needs. There is another project that my administrative staff will be working on and that is an angel ornament tree. We are moving towards the holiday season. They will have trees here and on the West Bank. They will have angel ornaments with the gender and ages of children in the foster care system. So we encourage you to take one of those angels, provide a gift and return it back to our office unwrapped no later than December 13th and we will provide those toys to the foster care system for them to wrap and deliver. The holidays are upon us. I want to wish everyone a very safe and happy Thanksgiving and a reminder that our offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday. Of course December holidays the

offices will be closed on Noon December 23rd and remain closed the 24th & 27th for Christmas and closed December 30th at Noon and the 31st. Again we want to thank all of our employees who work with us and all of our residents that support us."

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Cable Franchise Agreement

Any and all pending legal matters

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:50 PM, Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Morris seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

/s/Cheryl Millet
COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary