

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10th, 2019
CHAIRMAN THOMAS MALIK
VICE-CHAIR MARVIN PERRILLOUX

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in Council Chambers, St. John the Baptist Parish Government Complex, 1811 W. Airline Hwy., LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, December 10th, 2019 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, Marvin Perrilloux, Councilman District IV, Michael Wright, Councilman District V, Larry Snyder, Councilman District VI, Thomas Malik, Councilman District VII, Jaclyn Hotard Gaudet, Councilwoman-at-Large, Div. B

ABSENT: None

Councilman Madere led the Prayer. Councilman Wright led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Keith Green, Jr., was present.

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to go back into Regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Councilman Malik stated, "Yes ma'am. You'll come up to the stage, the podium. Which agenda item do you want to speak about?"

Stephanie Clark stated, "The agenda item is 19-51."

Councilman Malik stated, "Ok. Please state your name for the record."

My name is Stephanie Clark. My address is 528 West 2nd Street, LaPlace, LA, I'm here with my community. We're here to contest the redistricting of our Community. We fought a long and hard road to bring our community up to where it is. We're on the River Road if you're know where we are. We fought a long and hard road to keep us and to bring our community up to town status ship. To make us live like the other people in our community live. We really do not want, to go back down to a country or rural area, which to us means the burning of trash, it means raising any livestock you want, it means bringing in trailers to/for any and everyone to come in. We're a sleek little community of retirement people, and we would love to keep it that way. Thank you."

Councilman Malik stated, "Thank you for your comments, Mrs. Clark."

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:

Natalie Robottom - Recognition - Erica Rogers, Founder of Braveheart Foundation

Natalie Robottom, Parish President, read the proclamation for Erica Rogers,

Founder of Braveheart Foundation. The presentation can be viewed in its entirety at www.sjbparish.com.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - November 26th, 2019, Regular Meeting; Councilman Perrilloux - Re-appointment of Akeem Burl to the Recreational Advisory Board

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I just want to make a comment that this appointment, I did consult Ms. Griffin who is coming in as my replacement in District IV, and she was/she recommended the approval, so that's why it's on the agenda tonight so we can keep the board meetings going, so Mr. Burl is being re-appointed. Thank you."

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to approve consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - November 26th, 2019, Regular Meeting; Councilman Perrilloux - Re-appointment of Akeem Burl to the Recreational Advisory Board. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION ON ORDINANCES:

19-49 (Public Meeting Held) (Tabled 11-12-19) An ordinance introducing the annual operating budgets for the St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds and Capital Projects Funds for the fiscal year Beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020 (N. Robottom)

MOTION: Councilwoman Gaudet moved and Councilwoman Remonet seconded the motion to REMOVE Ordinance 19-49 from the TABLE. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Gaudet stated, "I wanted to just first say I had to think about for a second, I've been out for a while and I've been working on a few things. But I had an unplanned event that kind of had me out for the last couple of weeks. So, I do appreciate everyone's patience and I'm slowly getting back. But I will have an item I want to offer a motion to amend the budget, I'll read through it and then give a little bit of an explanation after, and I'll just go through the various line items. And this'll be a motion to amend line item out of the General/Line Item 142 out of the General Fund by \$10,000; Line item 25, on Page 30 out of the Recreation Fund by \$10,000; Line Item 232 out of the General Fund in the amount of \$10,000; Line Item 220 out of the Communication Fund by \$10,000; Line 17 on Page 16 out of the Economic Development Fund by \$15,000; Line 194 out of the Health & Human Services - out of the General Fund (I apologize) by \$10,000; Line 206 out of the General Fund in the amount of \$10,000; Line 26 on Page 28 out of the Public Works Fund in the amount of \$20,000; Line 105 on Page 39 out of the Public Utilities Fund in the amount of \$20,000; Line 15 on Page 27 out of the Public Safety Fund in the amount of \$20,000; and Line 81 out of the General Fund in the amount of \$15,000. And these are all relative to salaries for the Department Heads, from what I found in just maybe the last month or so as we've begun the transition, and I looked at all of our neighboring parishes, I looked at a salary study that was done in the Parishes that our salaries are well below, even competitive, especially in our Public Works, Public Utilities where you have an Engineer, in most cases it was \$50,000 less than our neighboring parishes. I found in some of our neighboring parishes what were they had several Engineers interested in those positions that would require an Engineer, where we haven't had any. And the reason being for that, I believe it's because is when you're that far, the disparity is that great especially for some of your professionals, then that's where you have some issues. So, I felt the agenda, I mean the budget has not been approved, this is obviously the appropriate time to

ask to make those amendments. The amendments total overall 10 of the departments, \$140,000, I put together a little spreadsheet and what I did was, some of the smaller disparities in some of the salaries where it was maybe \$14,000; \$15,000, that's where the ten (10) came in, all the way up to the departments that had disparities of \$48,000; \$42,000, looking at like our St. Charles Parish, our neighboring whose the most comparable, that's where the increase of twenty (20) was. And so, that would be my motion to make those amendments. Obviously, we won't be able to be exactly where they are even in any other surrounding parishes, it would just be too costly. I did meet with our Finance Department, all of these departments obviously have the ability to absorb these increases and before we start naming people, I felt it more appropriate to, so it's not like you're giving an increase to a particular person it's to the position, which is what it should be. So that's my motion. And I did make copies of the spreadsheet and like I said, I would've worked on it a little bit sooner, but like I said I had an unplanned surgery, I was actually unable to drive for two (2) weeks, so that's why I'm presenting it now. But the budget, luckily had not been approved yet, so it was the appropriate time to make the amendment, and if anybody else have any other amendments. I do know that with Julie leaving, January 3rd, is her last day that we will need to get you know the budget, up you know approve them one way or another so that it can get into the system. So, thank you.

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to approve amend the annual operating budgets for St. John the Baptist Parish General Funds, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds and Capital Projects Funds for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020. (See attached amendments) 2 amendments added at the meeting of December 10th, 2019. Amendment #1 to the General Fund - Line 142 - increase of \$10,000, Line 25 out of the Recreation Fund by \$10,000, Line 232 out of the General Fund by \$10,000, Line 220 out of the Communication Fund by \$10,000, Line 17 out of the Economic Development Fund by \$15,000, Line 194 out of the General Fund by \$10,000, Line 206 out of the General Fund in the amount of \$10,000, Line 26 out of the Public Works Fund in the amount of \$20,000, Line 105 out of the Public Utilities Fund by \$20,000, Line 15 out of the Public Safety Fund by \$10,000 and Line 81 out of the General Fund in the amount of \$15,000. Relative to salaries of Department Heads, Amendment #2 to the General Fund - Expenditures - Line 250 - 45% increase of \$6,480, Line 261 - 45% increase of \$16,800, Line 262 - 45% increase of \$16,800. The motion passed with Councilman Snyder abstaining.

19-50 (Public Hearing Held) (Tabled 11-26-19) An ordinance to create perspective precincts by the split and/or merger of precinct geography in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 18:532 and 18:532.1(N. Robottom)

MOTION: Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to REMOVE Ordinance 19-50 from the TABLE. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to TABLE Ordinance 19-50. The motion passed unanimously.

19-51 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the rezoning of Lots A & A-1-A of the New Era Plantation Subdivision generally bounded by the Y.&M.V. Railroad, West Second Street, and Water Plant Road from the Residential District One (R-1) to the Rural District (RURAL), LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA, shown in Exhibit 1 attached (PZR-19-1170) (N. Robottom)

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to DENY Ordinance 19-51. The motion passed unanimously.

19-52 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving a one-time expansion of a non-conforming use, as per Sec. 113-49(g)(3), on a portion of the Celestin Jacob Tract, located in the area generally bounded by LA Hwy. 61, KCS Railroad, Hands Dr., and Steven Dr., Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA, as shown in Exhibit 1 attached (PZR-19-1168) (N. Robottom)

Rene Pastorek stated, *"This request to allow a one-time expansion of an RV park with one additional RV was recommended with unanimous approval by the Planning Commission at its November 18th meeting. It's compatible with the surrounding land uses and intent of the Comprehensive Plan, therefore Administration recommends approval."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 19-52. The motion passed with Councilman Becnel and Madere absent.

19-53 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinance, Chapter 113 - Zoning, specifically those provisions related to mobile vendors with the intent of permitting the legal and predictable operation of certain types of such uses, as well to provide for related matters. (Parish wide, Docket No. TXT-19-02) (N. Robottom)

Rene Pastorek stated, *"This ordinance allows mobile vendors to operate on private property in major commercial corridors and local historic districts with the goal of providing low barrier opportunities for economic development and entrepreneurship. In addition to allowing operation of mobile vendors, the ordinance establishes performance standards to limit any potential impact to neighboring properties. The ordinance received recommendations for approval from the President's Advisory Committee, the Economic Development Committee, and the Planning Commission."*

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 19-53. The motion passed unanimously.

19-54 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, specifically those provisions related to stormwater Management and low impact development, with the intent of Clarifying stormwater management design standards and procedures and to provide for related matters (Parish wide, Docket No. TXT-19-03) (N. Robottom)

Rene Pastorek stated, *"This ordinance proposes an approach to stormwater management that integrates nature-based solutions into existing drainage systems to alleviate flooding stresses associated with new development. Further, it fulfills requirements of both LDEQ and the Parish's Stormwater Management Plan which aim to reduce post-development run-off and reduce flooding parish wide. The study and proposed amendments were produced with assistance from CSRS, Inc. and a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The ordinance requires submittal of a drainage plan for development sites one acre or more in size and encourages the use of green infrastructure as a way to improve drainage. The ordinance received recommendations for approval by the President's Advisory Committee, the Coastal Zone Advisory Committee and the Planning Commission. Administration recommends approval."*

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 19-54. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Becnel stated, "I ask that the minutes of the finance meeting be accepted."

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the finance meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Thomas Malik - Council meeting date change of December 24th, 2019

Councilman Malik stated, "The original Council meeting was scheduled for December 24th, so we need a new date, if you'll don't want to..."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "December 23rd."

Councilman Malik stated, "So we have December 23rd, and we want to have that at 11:30 at night! What's the time? Noon? Proposed change from December 24th, to December 23, 2019 at Noon, for the last Council meeting of 2019."

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to change the date of the next Council Meeting from Tuesday, December 24th, 2019 to Monday, December 23rd, 2019, at Noon. The motion passed unanimously.

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R19-31 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to engage and employ Breazeale, Sachse, & Wilson, L.L.P. to advise and represent the Parish with respect to its acquisition through voluntary sale or, if necessary, expropriation of property necessary to facilitate the Parish's Haydel Canal Flood protection project

Natalie Robottom stated, "This resolution is required by the Attorney General's office, this Council previously voted to move forward with hiring this firm, for the Haydel Project, because of the issues we had with property acquisition. But the resolution approved by Council is required, as defined by the Attorney General's office, when the fees exceed their defined rates. The Attorney General's office will determine if the proposed fees are reasonable based on the required expertise and will either deny or approve the adjusted rates. I think there was some delay in moving this forward because there it is a specialized type of auction for ex-appropriation, and their fees are slightly higher. So, we have to submit this resolution to the Attorney General before we could move forward."

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R19-31. The motion passed unanimously.

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R19-32 - A Resolution supporting adoption of the Language Access Plan (LAP)

Natalie Robottom stated, "Adoption of the LAP is required to comply with current policies and procedures of the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) program. The plan was reviewed and approved by the Office of Community Development/CDBG and Administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R19-32. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Perrilloux excused himself from the meeting at 8:19 PM.

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R19-33 - A Resolution supporting adoption of the revised Citizen Participation Plan

Natalie Robottom stated, "The revised plan is required to reflect compliance with current policies and procedures of the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) program. The plan was reviewed and approved by the Office of Community Development/CDBG and Administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R19-33. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Kurt Becnel - Shirley Trench - Discussion regarding littering on W. 9th Street, Wallace

Councilman Becnel stated, "Okay, this with Shirley Trench - Discussion regarding littering on W. 9th Street. I had a conversation with Ms. Trench this afternoon, and what she's recommending, really recommending, and Travis, you might be able to help me on this. What Ms. Trench is recommending, there's littering going around, around, her house or down that street, and I spoke to some other residents on W. 9th."

Lennix Madere - Update on 219 Homewood demolition, status of E. 23rd Street and grant info

Rene Pastorek stated, "A request has been made to the South-Central Planning and Development Commission to re-assess this property."

Lennix Madere - Update on water leaks E. 23rd Street

Reed Alexander stated, "Two (2) water leaks were repaired and the department is waiting for the surface to compact to re-pave the roadway."

Larry Snyder - Discussion regarding the parish's responsibilities for trees and vegetation on parish right-of-way, that's affecting sidewalks, drainage and driveways

Verdell Kindricks stated, "The Parish is typically responsible for it's right-of-way once verified by GIS that it is not private property and the concern is verified."

Larry Snyder - Update on the water meters project

Robert Figuero stated, "A preconstruction meeting was held on November 7, 2019 and the contracts were signed by the Contractor on December 4, 2019 and returned to the Parish Friday, December 6 for signature. The contract and performance bond were signed Monday, December 9 and will be recorded with the Clerk of Court this week. A Notice to Proceed (NTP) will be issued the first week of January 2020."

Larry Snyder - Discussion regarding the parishes' responsibility for removal of shopping carts from neighborhoods

Rene Pastorek stated, "After months of research and consultation with other municipalities, Administration proposed an ordinance to address the problem of abandoned shopping carts, but the Council failed to act at the September 10th Council meeting. According to the DA's Office, Parish employees cannot pick up shopping carts located on private property and cannot issue violations to have them removed. The Public Works Department was instructed to only pick up shopping carts on public rights-of-way or on public property and when they pose a threat to drainage or public safety."

Larry Snyder - Update from Royal Engineering on raising of the Electrical Components at Ruddock

Reed Alexander stated, "The authorization to advertise for bids will be place on the next Council meeting agenda."

Larry Snyder - Update on the Woodland Drive East and West bound side repairs at the New Woodland Bridge

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes, this is one of those asphalt streets Mr. Madere, I'd like to get repaired. Right now, it's causing issues with people's undercarriage on their cars. It's terrible, and..."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think we have a misunderstanding. We were thinking about the new bridge. Is that what you said?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "I call it both the new bridge because they're both new."

Natalie Robottom stated, "The bridge that we thought you were talking about the bridge we repaired. Obviously not."

Councilman Snyder stated, "The new bridge I mean the misunderstanding was you know with a little insight, only people could use the other bridge is us."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Right!"

Larry Snyder - Update on repairs to the Cambridge entrance sign, lighting fixtures and electrical issues

Councilman Snyder stated, "We can take that one off. That one was taken care of big time."

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Parish Buildings - Security

Any and all pending legal matters

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS:

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to give the parish employees the entire day off on Thursday, December 26th, 2019

and the entire day off on Thursday, January 2nd, 2020 in observance of the Christmas and New Year's Holidays. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent."

19-55 An ordinance creating the Department of Drainage of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, providing for the appointment of a Director who shall be responsible for developing, coordinating, and implementing drainage strategies, overseeing all internal and external drainage systems, promote the safety and protection of the Parish critical infrastructure and its residents during all drainage threats including but not limited to tropical systems, tidal increases, wind events and excessive rain
(J. Hotard Gaudet)

19-56 An ordinance creating the Department of Director of Community Engagement and Legislative Affairs of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, providing for the appointment of a Director who shall be responsible for heading outreach strategies for the community to promote community awareness and involvement, to serve as an internal and external liaison for community events, constituents services, and during Parish emergencies and to inform Parish government of the input from its citizens and stakeholders, to maintain relationships with regulatory agencies, school districts and sheriff's office, and to assist with the communications and relationships with both state and federal representatives on behalf of St. John the Baptist Parish (J. Hotard Gaudet)

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:40 PM, Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Hotard Gaudet seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

/s/Thomas Malik
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
COUNCIL SECRETARY