

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH, 2016
CHAIRMAN MARVIN PERRILLOUX
VICE-CHAIR MICHAEL WRIGHT

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McToby Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, December 13, 2016, 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, Raj Pannu, Councilwoman District VII, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilwoman-at-Large, Div. B

ABSENT: None

Councilman Sorapuru led the Prayer. Councilman Madere led the Pledge.

MOTION: Councilman Snyder and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion for a recess. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to return to the regular meeting. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Legal Counsel Keith Green, Jr. and Geoffrey Michel were present.

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to suspend the rules to move up Dr. Chuck Brown-LDEQ Presentation-DENKA Interim Measures. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Chuck Brown - LDEQ - Presentation - DENKA Interim Measures

Natalie Robottom stated, "I'd like to welcome Dr. Chuck Brown with DEQ, we also have Representative Dr. Jimmy Guidry, I think you guys have met Dr. Guidry with DHH before, well LDH. We had a public meeting at Our Lady of Grace, we've had several other meetings, we've met with representatives from DEQ, we've met with DENKA, they've met with DENKA, there was some concerns expressed about the status and we welcome representatives here to provide us the latest information on what's happening. So Dr. Brown."

Dr. Chuck Brown Stated, "Madam President, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Council Members. I am Dr. Chuck Carl Brown the Secretary of the Louisiana DEQ. I've met some of you personally and the ones I haven't I look forward to spending some time with you. We talked about these loans, we got of course our State Health Officer, Dr. Guidry who has that Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund that I know you've accessed before and looking to get some more cash. But I also understand you guys are looking for some smart meters, so that falls under our Revolving Loan Fund, so we look forward to having those conversations. What I wanted to do was take this opportunity to kind of update you on what's going on with the DENKA facility here formally DuPont. As you know, there's been lots and lots conversations in the media, meetings and I'm

a firm believer in getting the accurate information from the folks that are at the forefront of what's really going on. I have a philosophy I call it EEAT (Environmental Education) you have access to the decision makers which is me, then hopefully ultimately you trust the decision that's being made. I'm going to give you a little background on what has transpired so far and then kind of let you know where we are as far as addressing those issues. In December of 2015 EPA released a NATA Study (National Air Toxic Assessment) Study, those studies are meant to identify areas of concern. They're not meant to identify areas of risk, so I wanted to make sure we understand the difference there. So when those areas of concern are identified, then you start taking measures to try and mitigate that risk, so that's kind of where we are. So in December of 2015, EPA reclassified a chemical that's been emitted by the DENKA facility, Chloroprene which is used to make neoprene, actually the plant here is the only one in the country that's makes that product. They reclassified that chemical as being a possible caution agent. And I hope you key in on the words that I'm talking and I'm using; A POSSIBLE CAUTION AGENTIC. When you establish risk, risk is established over a long time, 24 hours a day, 365 a year over 70 years and that gives you a risk of/or possibly being impacted by Cancer. So long term exposure is what we're talking about. So we started meeting as soon as we took office in January, I think this is probably my 55th or 60th meeting regarding DENKA. As a matter of fact, as the Trump Administration is transitioning, there EPA individuals are asking each state what are the top three items of concern in each state. Well we identified the open burning of emissions that Kep Mendon as being one and not necessarily one but being one, Coastal Restoration, the issues we have with land lost being one and the issues that are associated with what's going at DENKA being one also. So, that lets you know how we have identified and categorized the importance of what's going on at the facility. So as we move forward we brought in the company, we met with your local leadership more than once, we actually started collecting air data in March, EPA did, we actually put in our mobile monitoring lab throughout the community to identify some sites that would be adequate for air sampling, we identified six sites, if I don't name them all, don't hold that against me, but Hwy. 44, Acorn, St. John, East St. John High School, 5th Ward Elementary, the levee, we have one at Ochsner and then the one we call the Western Monitor. Since then, we also over the last 2 months have put a monitor in Edgard, just to make sure we're covering the entire area. From that data, that we've created a website and we've posting live data, you can look at each monitor and you can see various spikes, those spikes are areas of concern but that's exactly what they are, they're spikes. You know I talked about risk I talked about long term exposure, when you get a monitor that shows a spike, you also see that same monitor on a different day where the winds blowing a different way that shows non-detect. So I say all that to say, it's not like there's a smoking gun that somewhere in St. John Parish. It's not like the water levels, laying in water and flint, where you had elevated levels of lead and blood of children. So we don't have that type of situation but it doesn't mean that we're not looking to address the situation at hand. So we brought the company in, we actually brought the CEO from Japan, he's been in my office more than once, we talked about how we start to see these numbers trend downward and I mean immediately. So, what we've come up with is some intro measures, we feel that these measures once they're all in place are going to reduce the emission levels by 85% and I'm going to talk to you a little bit more about best available control technology. But these measures that we're working with the plant to put in place, we're doing that through an administrative order from my department and a consent decree from EPA with the Department of Justice involved. So everybody is watching what's going on at this plant in St. John. First thing

they're going to do is they're going to add some condensers to their kettles, that's going to capture and reduce some tonnage of Chloroprene, they're going to add another condenser to their vacuum pumps where their monomers go, all that's going to happen within the next 3 to 5 months, we should start seeing numbers at that point even after the first installation start trending downward. Now I want you to also understand that we're not talking about plumbing that's underneath your sink, we're talking about a plant that's operating 24 hours a day and so it's not like turning off a valve and rerouting a line. It is a major undertaking and I would tell you exactly what we think they're going to spend. The third thing they're going to do, they're going to reroute some of their fugitive emissions to a furnace they have in place and finally they're going to install a RTO, a thermal oxidizer. We feel that that along with those three intro measures, which we think everything should be in place by the end of seventeen, will reduce the Chloroprene emissions by 85%. Now that RTO is what's called the best available control technology that is what EPA uses when there's no standard in place. And I want you to understand that, there is no standard for the caution agentic effects of Chloroprene. There's only an industrial standard that we use, that OSHA uses to set certain guidelines. So all the numbers that folks had been putting out there and saying is a standard, there is no standard, it's just guidance. So I'm saying that it is a fact, okay! So whatever everybody says, it is speculation. Alright, I want you to be clear about that. Now, I want everybody also to know that, we're doing everything we possibly can to address any concerns you may have, our doors are open, again this is probably my 50th meeting that I've had on this subject, but I wanted to come and stand before you, we came on July 7th with a public meeting, we had EPA with us, I chose not to have the here tonight because I wanted to have this conversation with you so you get to know me if you have not met me. My door is open, I was down here I think last week at the School Board Meeting, I wanted to address the concerns they may have about what's going on at 5th Ward or East St. John, so these are the measures we have in place, we are continuing to work with EPA, with the plant, again we have some orders in place but they have not resisted anything we've asked them to do and if it gets to that point, we do have the option of forcing them to do anything we ask them to do, but they're investing a ton of money quickly, because these types of things as I say; it's not like plumbing that's under your sink, these things are not, is not just easy to turn and reroute, but they're making an effort, they made the commitment and we're continuing to monitor, we're going to monitor for at least another year and we should start seeing these numbers start trending downward, and ultimately when everything's in place, then we'll be able to stand before you and tell you how effective the RTO is. Again, best available control technology that will help us set a standard and again there's now smoking gun. We brought in our folks from the LSU Tumor Registry, and they did a presentation at the July 7th meeting and they talked about the incidents of Cancer in St. John Parish. For every category, there's no higher incidents of Cancer in St. John than anywhere else in this state, as matter of fact; for every African-American Females it's even lower in St. John than anywhere else in the state. So, there's no smoking gun, believe me if we felt that there was an imminent threat, we would be taking the appropriate measures to deal with that threat. We got these measures in place, we're going to evaluate their effectiveness, we're going to continue to gather data and we're going to get through this I think together and hopefully a resolution that everybody has a level of comfort that they're being protected. Now I have with me, again I have lots of members from my staff, but I also have Dr. Guidry here who is our State Health Officer and he's going to make a couple of comments also."

Dr. Jimmy Guidry, "Good Evening. When Secretary Brown asked me to start looking at this issue, I like you concern about there's an exposure going on in the community in Louisiana, which is my charge as State Health Officer. What is the risk to your health? What is the risk long term? What is the risk acutely? So I put a lot of folks on this, I put our contract with Tulane, our Toxicologist, Lou Ann White, she's here tonight, I put our State Epidemiologist to work on looking at incidents on what was going on in this community. Also, look at the data from the tumor registry to see what the incidents of cancer, all to try and answer that question; what does this mean to the people that live here? What does it mean to the kids that go to school nearby? How many schools are near plant? This is a most aggressive response I've seen and I've been doing this for a lot of years to any event in Louisiana. I'm impressed with Secretary Brown, I haven't known him for a long time but he's jumped in with both feet and he is committed. And we want to keep asking the questions; what are the risk? What does it mean? The levels are spikes, from what I hear from the Toxicologist, since she's here she can answer if there's any technical questions. To be ongoing those levels probably wouldn't cause acute affects because they don't last very long and they changed every day, they change with the wind, but the affects you would have if that level were to go up, if we weren't addressing this and over time you would start seeing upper respiratory effects, things that would affect your lungs, things that would affect your eyes, other things can do that but the levels that we are seeing levels that we've seen on those spikes, we still wouldn't expect those symptoms. The long term, years of being exposed to this those levels would have to be somewhat higher and we want to make sure we don't ever get to those levels. So what I've seen so far, I have some comfort that this isn't a, an emergency but we're going to keep working with the department to make sure that the things the company is promising, actually occur cause nobody should be exposed to this, if it's not necessary and we need to measure what amount is necessary. One thing a year ago, I hadn't heard the word Chloroprene or dealt with that in Louisiana, but it's been here. It's been here, it's been here for a long time, so you would expect if there were hi levels in spike you would expect higher levels of cancer from if the exposure had been high enough and we're not seeing that, so it gives me a little comfort but keeping the company honest and making sure that they protect your health is our goal to work with DEQ and EPA to make that happen. If there are technical questions about the chemical or the actual values, I have people in the audience here, I also have the Environmental Epidemiologist section, a group of folks who look at this data and help us determine what it means, so I brought them with me in case there were more questions. But I just want to share with you, I take this very seriously because it's something that we should not be exposed to without monitoring, without making sure that the levels are controlled and I feel comfortable that DEQ has put the muscle and the attention and the emphasis where it needs to be, more so than I've ever seen in the 30 years I've been doing this job. Thank you."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes Mr. Brown, myself and Mr. Sorapuru and Mr. Perrilloux met with DENKA last week, they wanted to meet with us and at that time we asked them a lot of questions. One of the questions they asked me was; what would I do if I was them coming into our community, in our community into our District? And my answer to him was that; that I would try to make sure that the people understand that I'm trying to work with them and be very helpful with the problem that they're facing. That's what I told him. We also talked about the 85% reduction, my question to him was; 85% of what level? If it's extremely high 85% may not get us down to what you said it was 0.2 is what you're requiring them to get down to?"

Dr. Brown stated, "No that's not a standard, that's just a guidance."

Councilman Madere asked, "Okay but I mean that's the guidance you wanted them to get to?"

Dr. Brown stated, "That's a guidance, the best available control technology will help us set the actual standard."

Councilman Madere asked, "But I mean that's what the standard is?"

Dr. Brown stated, "There is no standard."

Councilman Madere stated, "But I mean the guide then okay."

Dr. Brown stated, "There's a guidance."

Councilman Madere stated, "A guidance."

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

John Cummings, Owner of the Whitney Plantation on Hwy. 18 in Wallace, stated, "I wanted to address some of our concerns about DuPont/DENKA. DuPont, you asked whether or not DuPont knew of the problem when it was dealing with DENKA. Did DENKA know, did DuPont know of the problems with Chloroprene? And I want to tell you that DuPont was run out of Louisville, Kentucky and I'm going to bring all of those records, they're on the way, and I would like to have a time when we can bring some of our people to present the facts; as we see them. And it's not that we are fear mongers, it's just that we do fear certain things, especially for children. And here's what happened; they put 5 air monitors and you've seen them and everyone, everyone measured over the point two, which we say is the standard and DEQ says; it's guidance. Let me tell you where that came from; there's an organization it's called NATA (National Air Toxic Assessment) and they did the work for EPA, they wanted to know how toxic Chloroprene was. This what they did; they took 50 rats and 50 mice, male and female and put them in a contained area for 2 years, and I think either 5 or 6 days a week they breathe that was contaminated with Chloroprene. At the end of that time, there were autopsies on mice and rats, and they found Cancer of the liver, Cancer of the lungs, 2 years 2 years. Now, there's a difference between animals, rodents and human beings, but we know that those test resulted in Cancer for those animals. Now, we have children in schools here, where the Chloroprene level is 300 times the guidance, 300 times and it's not workman working 8 hours a day, these kids these kids breathe it there and they breathe it at their homes, and of course there little bodies are more susceptible than ours would be. Now does that cause fear in anyone? We went to the school board the other day and I was accused of being a fear monger and Bobby Taylor..."

Councilman Wright interrupting stated, "Excuse me Mr. Cummings we reached our 3 minutes for public comments, reached our 3 minutes for the public comment."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Chairman if you will to allow Mr. Cummings to continue to speak, I would offer a motion that we waive the 3 minutes and allow him some additional time to finish his comments."

Councilman Wright stated, "Point of order from legal. Is that appropriate?"

(Councilwoman Hotard and Keith Green, Jr., Legal Counsel discussed if it was

appropriate to allow Mr. Cummings extra time to complete his presentation.)

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to allow Mr. Cummings 10 minutes to finish his presentation. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Councilman Wright stated, "You have 10 more minutes Mr. Cummings."

John Cummings stated, "Oh good, well thank you and one of my employees have a business card that I buy for him and it only has two words; and it's STOP TALKING, so I'm going to do this. I'm passing these, these are maps; DENKA, the EPA made DENKA models, in other words; I just handed a map, it sits from October, it's brand new and DENKA was forced to do this modeling and if you look at it, that is how far; you heard you heard Dr. Brown say; that it will be in a small circle one mile to two miles or something like that. That map shows you how far out you have to go to get to point two, it will take you to the Spillway it'll take you into St. Charles Parish, it takes you above I mean above Edgard on the Westbank and it takes in all of LaPlace. We are breathing that in this room, we are breathing this when we leave and those children are choking on it. Now, is there anyone here from State Health, what I ask you to do is don't philosophy us on this one. Go to the nurses at the schools near there, there's an epidemic of respiratory problems now that just started July, August, September. Since July these well-meaning people who are going to do all these things, they have increased they have increased Chloroprene in that neighborhood by 50%, for example; in November they had 2 readings, one in the first 2 weeks in November and the last 2 weeks in November. The last 2 weeks in November were 50% greater than the first 2 weeks. Yawl know what turnarounds are but they were trying to clean out a Chloroprene tank and in order for it to be acceptable, it must be cooled it must be cooled in order for it to work when you open it up. Well, there's no cooling, was opened up in the neighborhood, tremendous spikes and they weren't even advised that it was happening, didn't even advise. Here's another thing; we're going to bring it to you, DuPont whenever it has a chemical that draws complaints and in Louisville everybody was sick, everybody was sick, and they made promises didn't keep one of them. But what we have here, is we have uncontrolled emissions and we're all breathing them. And it's not a matter of just the wind blows this way or the wind blows that way, anyone who wants, if you just tell me how many, I'll bring 20 of them, it's from LEAN (Louisiana Environment Action Network), it tells you about all of the places there. For example: You heard the Ochsner people here tonight and they're going to do a good job, I just took him out in the hallway I said; Let me tell you, did you know that on November the 15th, the monitor that is at Ochsner Hospital showed 299 times the permissible limit. Now, what wasn't said tonight by the secretary of DEQ, was that EPA told him it's .2 and it's not negotiable. If you can reduce emissions by 85%, so what. What we want to know is; what is the limit and can you get under that limit if we're going to breathe it? Why should kids be breathing this, why should we be breathing that? Why should we be breathing this? Now DuPont has a clinic and it's not as big as the Ochsner Hospital but it's big and you'll see, we'll bring it to you, all of the chemicals that gave them a problem they tested. Dr. Brown said, for example he didn't know why DuPont left Kentucky, well he's the only person in this business that doesn't know why they left Kentucky. And did DuPont know about this, come on they were fined, they were run out it was so bad DEQ didn't release this thing and the city had to get its own ordinance, it was called Crystal. And when that happened DuPont couldn't take it they left. There's no way to contain this Chloroprene and everything that you heard today and Dr. Browns' an honorable man, it's all speculation it's all speculation. The hand that we're dealing is

from the EPA .2, EPA has the question and answer bulletin that they send out, one of the questions was frequently asked; why is St. John the Baptist cancer risen, why? The answer was and I'll send that to you too; it's because of the 6 emission locations at that DENKA/DuPont in LaPlace, that's the Federal Government, that's what they said. People have come here today and say; we don't know we don't know. Can you imagine looking at children gagging and they are, they are. We have people, kids in the hospital and it's been just since July, August, September, and whenever there's a big spike, they get sick. Children are getting sick breathing 300 times the guidance level. And what do we do? What do we do? We can't say well we need a balance here we need those jobs, we want the jobs and we don't want the workers to get sick. But this group with DuPont, has a record, I have a rap sheet on them, I'll be glad to send it so you can see what happened to them where they were. And did they keep any of their promises and were they run out of Kentucky because they didn't keep their promises? Everybody was sick in, it was called Rubbertown, right out of Louisville. So if you say that we have no standard it's only a guidance. Well then, be guided by it. What does this mean? What does all of that mean? Everybody here was protecting, nobody here was protecting the children. You can't have any test to check to see if a child is getting sick. That's not true, that's not true. University of Missouri makes regular test, blood and urine and they'll tell you, they'll tell you. Anyhow, I want to thank you for allowing me to give this sermon there'll be no second collection. And here's the other thing, you like 70 years, sir you said you like the 70 year figure because of your age you'd like to think that you get there. Well I'm 80 years old I'm scared to death, but let me tell you what that means; it's very deceptive, it's someone who works for 8 hours a day, 8 hours a day and you have to ask yourself; at what dosage at what dosage, it's not 300% not that dosage, so what is a little child do? The child on that map, they're all living within that map they go to 5th Ward, they're in there and they're breathing it in the schools, they have problems running, Mr. Taylor who is here tonight, he got so sick in just about 2 months ago they had to take him to the hospital his sons couldn't run, he had to go in the house they locked themselves in their houses and that's not an emergency? Alright, so before the bell rings, so when you talk about 70 years you have to talk about the dosage, I think this is the highest dosage ever, ever and if you think they're good neighbors, let me tell you what we just discovered. That the Chloroprene, some of it that was produced here was sent by tank car to Lexington, when they were finished with it there was toxic and terrible they couldn't use it anymore, they put it in cars, truck tanks and brought it back to LaPlace and dumped it into wells here. The question about water, very, very important and we're going to drill wells, we're going to find out what it is. At the Whitney Plantation I saw a man in a white truck coming out and I went over to see what he was doing he said; I've been coming here every month, I didn't even know it was there, I've owned it for 16 years. He goes in takes the test of the water and I said; what are you finding? He said; I don't know I just send the data. Sir I'm going to find out what's there, what is it? What happens a deep well 2500 feet, what does that mean? So, my point is this; take it seriously take it seriously and let's do something, let's do something. If we can't have a Medical Monitoring Program, then what we have to do is to get away to get a Medical Monitoring Program. DEQ forced the company to have a Medical Monitoring Program, does anybody care enough for these kids, for these kids, they're living in a cloud of Chloroprene and it does many things. You heard today that nobody knows about the long term exposure, Occupational Workers Exposure. Respiratory impact, irritation and burning of eyes and skin, chest pains, neurological, fatigue, changes in the blood cells (we've seen that), reduced blood pressure, increased risk of developing cancer, caution

adenine the liver and the lungs of animals, damages to developing fetus', we have to see that as there been much of that in this community, causes spontaneous abortions and interferes with sperm production, that's proven that's the long term affect. DuPont has those records, we've got to get them and I'm glad. I want to tell you, of all the Civic Associations that I have been here, I've been given the honor of addressing, you guys are the best so far, thank you for letting me talk."

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you Mr. Cummings. Please state your name for the record."

"Shondrell Perrilloux Campbell"

Councilman Wright asked, "And which item are you speaking on?"

Shondrell Perrilloux Campbell stated, "The Ochsner facility."

Councilman Wright stated, "Ok you have 3 minutes."

Shondrell Perrilloux Campbell stated, "It's very ironic that I was here today to see that the same information that I was trying to address this council as it relates to the necessity of our community getting these substance abuse and the mental health treatment that they deeply need because those treatments are significant as it relates to the behavioral aspect of some of the disadvantage community in which I represent. And just to hear them say that they're bringing that particular department here, I presented some information to this council that I have complied with everything that was asked of me, and after I gave them that information and I got no call backs, no response, no nothing. But yet here tonight I stand as a voice for the people to bear witness to see that the same facility that I've been advocating, the same type of services that I've been providing outside of the parish is now becoming available to this parish where I diligently volunteer my time and I could not get a response back as a voice for the people, the very people that you all claim you represent me as a resident of St. John and all the disadvantage community, so I just strongly just advise this council to take it to deep consideration a packet that was given to you all and to serve the people in diligence like you all committed to and to emphasize and express yourselves as you asked us to express ourselves at the time when we cast our vote for you and that was my only concern is to say that; it's significant that we address the mentality of people. I can witness some mentality, mental help can play a role in your decision making process that would allow you to make decisions that you will regret in the future. It's important for our community and you all as a council to understand why, we needed to bring the Resource Center of St. John here that it would, that is so welcomed in other parishes and here it's sad to say; I'm a resident that was advocating for these same things, but it was welly receptive from an outsider. But I'm appreciative that they're bringing a facility here, but I'm asking that you all don't take lightly my package because it starts with some mentality..."

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you Ms. Perrilloux your 3 minutes is up. Thank you."

MOTION: Councilman Sorapuru and Councilman Snyder seconded to suspend the rules for Mr. Stricks with the Public Defender's Office to present a presentation on ongoing issue in his office. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Richard B. Stricks, District Public Defender of St. John stated, "I have been here as a Chief Public Defender since 1995 and I come before you this evening with a request, the first time I've come to this council with a request and I come now because of this special timing that exist. We have just had a successful election extending and rededicating certain monies for services to Juveniles and the Juvenile Justice System. We provide those services at the Public Defender's Office, legal representation of children in the St. John Juvenile Justice System and that haven't just occur this Saturday combining with the end of the year budget process, I appreciate the opportunity to present to you my request to participate to have the parish council amend the budget, include us in the budget for this specific purpose of providing children with legal representation in the Juvenile Justice System. The law requires that every child who is brought before the court, Juvenile Court on an allegation of delinquency or allegations of a family need of services be provided a lawyer and a lawyer paid at public expense. Our agency the Public Defender's Office provides those lawyers, we have two (2) who are dedicated to Juvenile Justice and we pay them out of our budget which is a shrinking source of revenue every month for the last six (6) months we have seen a decline in revenue and this is a perfect opportunity for the parish council to assist us and to assist the children of the parish by providing some funding. Now the presentation I made by the email to Mr. Gonzales and to the administration was a specific dollar amount, ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000.00) for three (3) lawyers, two (2) lawyers who have over 80% of their case load specifically providing services to juveniles and one (1) other lawyer that has a much lesser case load. So for ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000.00) out of the newly rededicated funds, we can pay for the legal services directly provided to children in this parish with three (3) lawyers. I've also asked the administration to consider and I'm asking the council now to consider that some support services are needed, Clerical Staff of one (1) person, one (1) Investigator and a Social Worker which the lawyers tell me are needed to adequately provide the services for the children. The total amount that I requested and requesting is one hundred and seventy thousand dollars (\$170,000.00) on an annual basis. I think if you review the budget that and you will be voting on later this year, I believe I was told the meeting on the 27th, you'll see on Page 60 of that budget in the booklet, a table that sets forth the income each year, the projected income for the calendar year 2017 and the account balance. The account balance at the end of this calendar year 2016, according to the document that's on Page 60 in the budget, is going to be 1.7 Million that has, as far as I can tell, not been committed and is an unspent balance that is projected to grow to 1.9 Million by the end of 2017. I'm asking for \$170,000.00, the surplus projected for 2017 is \$260,000.00, the request that I'm making could be paid out of the surplus for the calendar year without even touching the \$1.7 Million that is currently uncommitted and unspent. We have a very specific legally essential service that we provide directly to children, the juvenile court lawyers work very closely with the District Attorney's Office, with the Juvenile Court Judges, with the Probation Officers to avoid delinquency determinations against these children, to put them on that path away from recidivism to divert them away from adult criminal justice and we think we have been effective and helpful to the children that we serve. So this is my request; \$170,000.00 that the budget be amended before you adopt it at the end of the year, to include services that we provide at the Public Defender's Office. Our official name is the 40th Judicial District Public Defender's Office and if you add us to the budget you'll be providing a great deal of assistant to the children of the parish. Any questions? I'll be glad to answer any questions."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "How many attorneys do actually have on your staff right now?"

Richard B. Stricks stated, "We have eleven (11) lawyers. Of the eleven (11), two (2) are almost exclusively dedicated to providing services in the juvenile court, one (1) is what we call a conflict lawyer, when the two lawyers there can't handle all of the people who are involved in the case then we send another lawyer. So of the eleven (11) we have three (3) that practice in the Juvenile Court."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes Good Afternoon. Mr. Stricks is correct, he forwarded a budget to us and we shared with him that we'd schedule a meeting with him. After the tax passed which when we came before the council asking for permission to go out for the vote, it was because our General Fund is suffering by us paying out expenditures on juveniles that we needed a rededication to allow us to do. We support assistance to the Public Defender's Office. However, there were other things that this council needed to take care of and so what we wanted to do was sit and meet with Mr. Stricks to look at what the request was, the other proposals that Mr. Gonzales had made with regard to Probation Officers and some of the things that we're having to fund that's causing us deficit. So we definitely want to look at getting ourselves out of a problem first which is why we worked really hard to get this rededication, however we are open to meeting with Mr. Stricks as was told to him early today, to look at what it is he's proposing, how much is available this year, yes there's a healthy fund balance which is why we asked for the rededication. However, the budgets he didn't look at was what we're expending out of General Fund that's causing us a deficit to pay for services for juvenile. So we'll definitely have that meeting with you, I think Megan was going to be scheduling that with him and we will make a recommendation to you all from there. But yes we definitely get ourselves out of the jam that we're in, I also know that his program hurt by the LACE discontinuation which I understand that that will be reinstated in January. There's a plan to do that, so that should help you all get back on your feet. But we will definitely discuss all of those things in our meeting."

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:

New Business - Yolanda Cardona - (Carry Over 11-22-16) Yolagi Holistic Wellness

The above item will be carried over to the next agenda.

Natalie Robottom - Ochsner Medical Center Update - Stephen Robinson, Jr. CEO

Natalie Robottom introduced Stephen Robinson, Jr., CEO with Ochsner provided an update and gave a brief presentation on where they are, what they have to offer and what's the timeline for completion.

Natalie Robottom - Recognition - Sheriff Mike Tregre - Guns and Hoses Champions

Natalie Robottom congratulated the Sheriff's Office on winning the Guns and Hoses Championship game this year and what a great effort the Fire Department put in organizing the event which was for a good cause to raise money for firefighters who were injured in an accident in August and they worked with the families to provide funds for them and the share organization, the number of people, number of teams were there and showed how much work they all put in

to make this a success.

Natalie Robottom - Presentation - 2016 Andouille Queens - Keys to the Parish

The above item will be carried over to the next agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - November 22nd, 2016, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - MLK Annual March & Rally - Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church & New Pilgrim Baptist Church Monday, 1/16/17 beginning at 8:00 AM on Ory Drive.

MOTION: Councilman Snyder and Councilwoman Remondet seconded to the motion to approve the consent agenda items: Approval of Minutes - November 22nd, 2016, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - MLK Annual March & Rally - Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church & New Pilgrim Baptist Church Monday, 1/16/17 beginning at 8:00 AM on Ory Drive. The motion passed Councilman Madere and Perrilloux absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

16-53 (Public Hearing Held) (Carry Over 11-07-16) 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, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017. (N. Robottom)

The above item will be carried over to the next agenda.

16-54 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 28 Utilities Sub-Chapter A of St. John the Baptist Parish by adding Sub-Section C to Section 28:6 as per exhibit "A" (N. Robottom)

Natalie Robottom stated, "Act 605 of the 2016 Regular Session authorized an increase of the Safe Drinking Water Fee, effective January 1, 2017. The increase from \$.27 to \$1.00 per month is for a Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) testing fee. This is a pass through fee that is included on each water bill. Administration recommends approval."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "It says that the regular session authorized, is it something that we have to do, is that mandatory?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes and they're currently paying it now at \$.27 and they went up to a \$1.00 and so that money goes directly to LDH for testing."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay thank you."

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 16-54. The motion passed with Councilman Madere and Perrilloux absent.

16-56 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, specifically Chapters 14 and 113 with the intent of (1) allowing more zoning flexibility for single-family homeowners; (2) allowing flexibility in the treatment of non-conformities; (3) allowing the expansion of non-conforming situations under certain conditions; (4) allowing legally non-conforming situations to be rebuilt following a disaster without delay;

and (5) providing for related matters. (Parishwide) (N. Robottom)

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually this was an ordinance that after a lot of studying and conversations by Alex with some of the council members, some of the problems we experienced after the tornado, after the hurricane that we found some of the rules were restrictive, so we're attempting to provide some flexibility to our residents, especially after a disaster that we could work with them on rebuilding their properties the same things for businesses. Clearly we know there's some rules that need to be followed, but immediately after a disaster when we're trying to get our parish back up and running, we had some things in our ordinances that you know that we thought could use a lot of a little more flexibility. Alex has done some investigations in other parishes, I think she's had some meetings with some of you all getting your ideas. This was brought before the President's Advisory Council and presented to them, and it was also brought before the Planning Commission and they approved it and we're asking for the Council's approval as well"

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "Would this include the waiving of the permitting process after a disaster for repairs?"

Alexander Carter stated, "It doesn't waive the permitting process. What it does is it intensifies people to come in to get their permits by allowing them to keep their non-conforming status, if they come in 6 months after a disaster is declared. Where is right now when they come in if it's destroyed they lose their non-conforming status, they're asking for variances, they're coming in for re-zonings, trying to build back what they had. So we're using carrot and a stick here, we want people to come in, get your permits, build up to code, if they come in within 6 months they can keep their non-conforming status and build what they had."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Ok thank you."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I don't know I had a lot of issues especially small buildings, utility buildings and things of that nature. And I love this ordinance, I'll be honest with you, it's good ordinance it's good and we have people who's going to make the decision on it, yourself and what's the lady's name under you again?"

Alexander Carter stated, "Evelyn or Kristi?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "Evelyn, yeah I think it's Evelyn, we had a meeting."

Alexander Carter stated, "We work together very well."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Right, right. I think we'll make some good decisions. I really think so and that's one thing I like about this ordinance, it gives a little bit of flexibility. People who can make decisions, qualify to make those decisions, making those decisions. Thank you."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you and my understanding of the ordinance is that; in the event of a tornado, you know we're talking about an Act of God things like that, you can maintain your non-conforming status but let's just say that you allowed your building to stay vacant for 6 months and then you come and apply for a permit or anything like that, you should of lost your non-conforming status."

Alexander Carter stated, "That provision remains. If you are vacant or you abandon a building for 182 days that will not change. If anything, we clarified it for other uses because a lot of times someone will do something illegally and they'll say; well it's been there for 2 years. Just a presence of a non-conforming use that wasn't there before an ordinance wasn't adopted, we clarify a lot of inconsistency or unclear language because right now the code is pretty sparse when it talks about what you're getting at, but we did maintain the 182 days provision; where if you abandon or it's discontinued it cannot be reestablished, unless the new use conforms with the code."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Let me ask you this and I see it says here; rebuilt following a disaster? Which if we just say a disaster that can be ambiguous. Would you opposed to us amending the language, and legal maybe if you can chime in I don't think it's a substantial change to say; following a declared disaster. Because if something happens to you as an individual, someone could say; well this is a disaster, this happened but it has to be a true declared disaster because I think what we don't want, you know the intention of some of the non-conforming uses is for them to eventually work their way out. And I want to help people with tornados and Isaac and things like that, they're trying to rebuild what they had and Larry and I, especially us in LaPlace, we saw the bulk of that for Isaac. So we certainly want to accommodate them but just in the standard course of business to allow a non-conforming use to go vacant for 6 months. I could think of someone on 51 right now, they were always fighting. We some of them eventually, you know the grandfathers to die, so I would just want to make sure with disaster."

Alexander Carter stated, "And we do specify in the ordinance when we talk about that 6 month period to get that permit, that doesn't start until an emergency declaration is declared."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay."

Alexander Carter stated, "Or they can get access to the property. So that implies that it's substantial enough and there's also a statement in there that talks about how it's not something, like a disaster would not include something that would be because of your own fault."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Exactly okay."

Alexander Carter stated, "Right so that's in here."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "If we're covered that's good and I'd agree with a fellow council member. Yeah I would agree with Councilman Snyder, it's a good ordinance. So I do appreciate you taking the time and I know just in your department you handled these things proactively. You know and it says a lot just having a planning perspective and those types of things, you know we can't see it all. And we don't know from an application stand point what's happening out there. But I do appreciate when you do see it, you come to us to change the ordinances and we say that to all the departments. Hey, if it's not if it can't be applied or we can't use it, let us know we can change it legislatively, but to go through each department or have a good understanding of every little thing and how it's applied and we possibly do what we can. So I do appreciate you coming forward with this, especially because Planning and Zoning you probably come in contact with the public you know more than any department. And it's usually the bigger headache for people; oh my gosh I got to go there, and I think some of that I believe it's changing, I hear you know

positive feedback from people you know I actually went down there and I got it done, I'm surprised you know. So but that's a good thing you know and I know everybody hears it now to. It's a good thing for us you know that it's not the boogie man down there, so I appreciate it. Thank you."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes just a little bit more clarity on that Declare a Disaster. I mean I agree with you, but actually we had our tornado through here, did we get declared a disaster area?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I can declare like I'll declare."

Councilman Snyder stated, "You can do that. Okay, okay that's good."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 16-56. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

16-57 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, specifically Chapter 14 - Fees and Charges, Section 14-105. - Buildings and building regulations, to modify and clarify prices of existing commercial permit subcategories, such as cell towers and solar installation. (Parishwide) (N. Robottom)

The above item will be carried over to the next agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "At this time I'd like to ask that the council accept the recommendations of the finance committee."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee meeting. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Natalie Robottom - Request adoption of Parks & Recreation Summer Youth Program Staff Handbook

Natalie Robottom stated, "This is a result of an incident that occurred I think this past summer. It was a recommendation of the District Attorney's Office that we had a handbook that applied to staff that are hired for our programs in the summer. This document was put together by our HR Director and Recreation Director and reviewed by Legal Counsel. It's gone before the Recreation Advisory Board, it was approved by them on December 5th and we're recommending approval."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes I'd just like to say I read the thing as much as I could understand it but it's good, it's really good. It's going to help the people that's coming that's going to be dealing with these young people and so they can look out for certain things according to this handbook here. And I think it's going to help them out a lot too, especially with what we went through last summer."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And there is a requirement for them to sign and

acknowledge that they've received the handbook and obviously I think we're looking at some orientation before they would start to work, so we think it's a good document. Of course you know it's like any other, if we run into problems or need to add something we'll amend it and make the changes necessary."

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "Thank you so much for coming up with that you know, it's really important. My question is; are you going to put it on the website for people to access it also?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually we can place that on the Recreation page, just the actual policy itself, the signed pages will be included in HR and in the Recreation Department."

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "Perfect, perfect. Thank you."

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to grant administration the right to adopt the amended Parks & Recreation Sumer Youth Program Staff Handbook. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux and Sorapuru absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Larry Sorapuru - (Carry Over 11-7-16) Update from Bond attorney on financing for water projects

The above item will be carried over to the next agenda.

Lennix Madere - Update on Drainage in District III

Brian Nunes stated, "Mr. Madere I was hoping you can clarify what update you were looking for."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well this item is probably going to stay on this agenda until we finish that drainage project in District III. Just an update on that particular project and also I had a work order on East 15th Street, you know how they were supposed to dig that canal out back there? Okay and that's been quite a while. I don't think they've gotten to that yet."

Brian Nunes stated, "We haven't gotten to that one yet, no. To start with the project that's ongoing still, as you know we plan to finish up around March/April next year, but we're making good progress on that. We did receive the proposal to do the additional work that you had asked for with the remaining funds, so if everything is in line, we'll probably add that to council agenda early January so that we can continue that project as you asked. Right now with the holiday seasons I don't want to make any excuses, we do have a lot of operators out. My machines right now that I need for East 15th Street are over on Vicknair because we're cleaning out all the stuff we took out of the canal, we need to haul that off. So we need the machines over there at least one of them, I may be able to move one over but we're not going to finish East 15th before the end of this year, just due to the holidays and the vacations. But we will get it done."

Councilman Madere stated, "On that drainage project, there's a major concern I talked to you about that came up after we had that meeting with Ms. Robottom, is the depth and the retaining of water on Perrilloux Drive, that's my concern about that. I know they spoke about cleaning that box out underneath that Martin Luther King Boulevard, when are we going to do that? Because that water

is just sitting there...

Brian Nunes interrupting stated, "Right, the problem that we had is the one that goes directly under the railroad and administration has been in touch with Senator Cassidy's Office and they're working hand-in-hand with us for any issues we have with the railroad."

Councilman Madere asked, "Ok what about the part that we have? I think they said they had some sandbags in there, did we remove those yet?"

Brian Nunes stated, "I think the sandbags are gone. We haven't dug the whole ditch, because we want DOTD to help us out since that's still their highway. But I believe that sandbags are gone."

Councilman Madere asked, "How did sandbags get there in the first place?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Could have been anybody. Could have been a resident had them at their house and didn't want them anymore and just threw them back. Could have been I don't know. I can't answer I didn't put them there."

Councilman Madere stated, "Probably likely. One other thing to, I know we did a survey on Chad B. Baker."

Brian Nunes stated, "We did."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay and the results was?"

Brian Nunes stated, "I gave the survey to the parish engineer and he 2 reports on it and obviously the results is the same thing that we have all over that area, he said there was culverts were the wrong size, wrong elevation and if we need to, well to fix the whole problem we need to design just like what we're doing on everything else."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay and is someone in the process of doing that or?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Hasn't started yet."

Councilman Madere stated, "Hasn't started yet?"

Brian Nunes stated, "You know a professional service, it's going to cost us some money. So we have to identify funding for the design and then we can get it done, we need construction dollars too."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok alright thank you."

Larry Sorapuru - Status of the WestBank boat launch

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes what I'm asking administration to do is possible contact the property owners on the Westbank off of Hwy. 3127 at Moll Canal and see if it's feasible for the parish can either purchase or lease the property to get a boat launch put in place. Right now the trucks and trailers are parking on the side of the highway on 3127 and it's very crowded, it's unsafe for the turnaround, making a turnaround on that location with the highway. So I want to offer a motion and ask administration permission to talk to the property owners and see if it's possible."

Councilman Wright asked, "You have a motion to give administration permission to talk to the property owner?" Can I have a second?"

MOTION: Councilman Sorapuru and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to grant administration permission to talk to the property owner at Moll Canal to purchase or lease the property for a boat launch.

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I'm only not voting for your motion, I appreciate your request but it's just it's not a proper it's not a proper motion to give administration to talk to somebody. You can make the request and I believe you have but it's just not a proper motion. It's an improper motion, so I'm not going to vote on something I know that's improper."

Councilman Sorapuru state, "That's fine. Ms. Robottom you talk to the property owners. I withdraw my motion if causes a confusion."

Councilman Wright stated, "We'll withdraw the motion and the second."

Larry Snyder - Update on the administrative directive to consult an attorney concerning Fire Station #51 construction

The above item will be carried over to the next agenda.

Larry Snyder - Progress report on Vicknair Canal dredging

Councilman Snyder stated, "I'm satisfied with what Mr. Nunes got here. I'm satisfied with this."

Councilwoman Pannu excused herself from the meeting at 9:01 PM.

Larry Snyder - Update on Planning & Zoning administrative hearing, process and progress

Councilman Snyder requested to remove the above item from the agenda.

Larry Snyder - Update/status percent of overtime in each department for the year 2015

Councilman Snyder requested to remove the above item from the agenda.

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Parish Buildings - Security

Lennix Madere - St. John the Baptist Parish vs. Myrtle F. Victor Roba Inc. and Adair Asset Management, LLC, 40th JDC, #63827

John Barrett vs. St. John the Baptist Parish, Docket# 68043
(Graffiti issue)

Any and all pending legal matters

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

There are no ordinances to be introduced.

PRESIDENT REPORT:

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good evening - Just a reminder, the Boil Water Advisory has been lifted for LaPlace Water Customers due to emergency water line repairs that were administered early Sunday morning. Water is safe to drink and we want to take this time to thank LaPlace residents for their patience and cooperation during the unforeseen event. Thank you as well to Parish staff who worked overnight and through the night and morning, the crews and departments who worked tirelessly until water was restored. It was a separate hydrant that was hit yesterday, not the same as the hydrant in May, however, we are working on a contingency plan to safeguard the entire area as we have seen how vulnerable those hydrants can be near and in the middle of roadways especially near the Water Plant. We will be getting together and starting to move forward with plans for Woodland in the upcoming weeks. PLEASE sign up to receive emergency notifications to your home phone, cell phone, text messaging and email devices, if you have not done so already. You can sign up by visiting the homepage of the Parish website at sjbparish.com and clicking on "Stay Connected" or calling the Parish office at (985)652-9569. These are EXTREMELY important during emergencies, although the information is posted on the website, TV and social media pages, alerts will come to your home phone, cell phone, email and text messaging device without you having to go get them. It is an easy way to stay informed. Thank you to all residents who voted in the recent election and for the passage of the rededication of the Juvenile tax. With no increase in taxes, this rededication will help us better allocate monies for juvenile needs and also fund personnel, equipment and other necessities. We thank you for entrusting us and voting yes. We are extremely pleased with the news that both the House and Senate approved the Water Resources Development Act which brings us one step closer to providing levee protection to St. John Parish. The proposed law, will head to the President's desk soon for signature, after more than 40 years of inaction and devastation caused by Hurricane Isaac. Since 2012, countless hours have been spent testifying and advocating in Washington D.C. for the Westshore Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection project and we will continue to work with our state and federal partners until this project is constructed. Congratulations to our most recent class of FastTrac graduates and best of luck to you in your future business endeavors. A new FastTrac program will be announced in the spring and we encourage all of our small business entrepreneurs to take advantage of this great opportunity. Congratulations to the Godchaux-Reserve House Committee which includes Councilwoman Remondet for being able to purchase a new roof for the house. The house is truly a special piece of history in Reserve and we recently attended the celebration and were able to take a tour to view progress. Great work and we look forward to it becoming a museum! I would like to congratulate Riverside Academy on their back to back championship run! We are proud of your efforts and look forward to seeing you again next year. Congratulations to the other high school football teams for a successful season. Last week we had two successful town hall meetings - one in Pleasure Bend and one for LaPlace Park. I believe the meetings were very informative and residents were able to ask questions and receive updates on projects in their area. Thank you to Chairman Perrilloux for his facilitation of the LaPlace Park meeting and other council members who attended the meetings. I had the privilege of being the guest narrator of Twas the Night Before Christmas at Avis' Restaurant for their Candlelight Nights in December this Sunday. Tickets are still available to attend the event and dinner before Christmas and all proceeds will go to Louisiana flood victims. I had a great time and thank Avis and her staff and guests for having me. Hats off to Mrs. Rita Perrilloux and all involved in Saturday's toy giveaway at

Riverlands Christian Center. It was a well-attended event and one that residents are appreciative of so we thank you again. Christmas in Crevasse is now open featuring hayrides on 5 acres of farm land with over 70 lighted Christmas frames on display in LaPlace. The event takes place at the corner of Louisiana and Shadowbrook, three blocks off of McReine Rd. and is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 6:00pm - 10:00pm until January 1st. Admission prices vary from \$2-\$5. All proceeds benefit the Greater New Orleans Therapeutic Riding Center. Residents should have received their Shop Local trivia games in the mail and are asked to complete the questions and return them no later than December 28th. Entries with correct answers will be entered into a drawing to win gift cards and other prizes from local retailers. Completed trivia cards can be dropped off at Shop Local Collections Boxes located at the Percy Hebert Building or the St. John Courthouse or mailed to 1801 W. Airline Hwy. in LaPlace. Winners will be announced on December 29th. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT :

At 9:51 PM, Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux and Councilwoman Pannu absent.

/s/Michael Wright
COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary