

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd, 2014
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 McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, December 23rd, 2014, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: None

Councilman Gauff led the Prayer. Councilman Madere led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Jeff Perilloux and Carl Butler were present.

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES

There were no businesses at the meeting.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes - December 9th, 2014, Regular Meeting; Natalie Robottom - (Carry Over 12-09-14) Appointments to the Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee Whitney Jasmin and Annrose Guarino; Art Smith - Appointment to the Library Board - Virgie Jarrow Johnson; Permit Approval - MLK March & rally - 1-19-15; Permit Approval - Krewe du Monde Mardi Gras Parade - 2-15-15; Lennix Madere - Appointment of Robert Taylor to the Economic Development Board; Cheryl Millet - Appointment of Stacey Waller to the Library Board

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - December 9th, 2014, Regular Meeting; Natalie Robottom - (Carry Over 12-09-14) Appointments to the Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee Whitney Jasmin and Annrose Guarino; Art Smith - Appointment to the Library Board - Virgie Jarrow Johnson; Permit Approval - MLK March & rally - 1-19-15; Permit Approval - Krewe du Monde Mardi Gras Parade - 2-15-15; Lennix Madere - Appointment of Robert Taylor to the Economic Development Board; Cheryl Millet - Appointment of Stacey Waller to the Library Board. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

14-53 (Carry Over 12-10-14) (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance introducing the annual operating budgets for the St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds and

Parishwide Sewerage Construction Fund for the year beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2015 (N. Robottom)

Natalie Robottom stated, "I want to apologize obviously the weather is bad and we do have our assistant director who is monitoring that and should something change and we need to change our plans he will notify us of that but it seems as the weather was moving out. Some of our directors were advised to not get on the road and come in obviously our finance manager is not here she is on vacation but was going to come in for the meeting until the weather popped up but basically in accordance with Article V, Sections B & C of the Home Rule Charter, a line item operating budget and capital budget were submitted to the council in accordance with accepted accounting procedures and in a format established by the Parish Council sixty (60 days) before the beginning of the fiscal year. The budget as submitted is balanced and includes a Budget Message indicating the current fiscal status, recent trends and recommended expenditures based on anticipated revenues. The budget is somewhat conservative but reflects a positive trend of reducing debt while increasing revenues. Administration recommends approval of the 2015 annual operating budget as all the questions submitted to us were responded to in writing and all requests provided as requested."

Councilman Wright stated, "At this time I would like to make a motion to amend the 2015 proposed budget as follows: General Fund - Executive & Administrative, line item 69, salaries - Parish President to \$143,400.00, line item 71, salaries - CAO to \$94,500.00, line item 72, salaries - CFO to \$90,200.00, line item 73, salaries - Administrative Assistant to \$51,250.00, line item 74, salaries - Assistant to the Parish President to \$61,500.00, line item 75, salaries - Assistant to the Parish President to \$57,298.53, Planning & Zoning, line item 117, salary Director to \$86,452.60, Health & Human Services, line item 146, salary Director to \$73,185.00, Human Resources, line item 156, salary Director to \$75,429.75, Communications, line item 165, salary PIO to \$64,575.00, line item 166, salary Assistant to the Parish President to \$41,000.00, Purchasing Department, line item 176, salary Director to \$71,750.00, Economic Development Fund, line item 13, salary Director to \$75,429.75, Public Safety Fund, line item 12, salary Director to \$80,718.75, Public Works Fund, line item 20, salary Director to \$88,252.50, line item 21, salary Assistant to the Parish President to \$35,860.65, line item 22, salary Assistant to the Parish President to \$49,825.25, Recreation Fund, line item 22, salary Director - Zero, Wastewater Operating Fund, line item 14, salary Director to \$86,100.00."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "You've heard the motion on these amendments. Can I get a second?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "I second."

Councilman Gauff stated, "Being that this is the first time I am seeing any of these numbers and why would you all or why would you make this and at least not give us time to look things over."

Councilman Wright stated, "It was put out before the meeting on the table. They all reflect those that went up in the non-classified were a 2.5% increase."

Councilman Gauff asked, "Okay so it was a 2.5% increase across the board?"

Councilman Wright stated, "Not across the board. Line item 71 on General Fund CAO and Recreation Director line 22 on that item and also the Wastewater Operating Fund Utilities Director did not reflect an increase."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Just for clarification purposes again as we repeatedly hear this information was not provided to us prior to even though there have been numerous requests and offers to have meetings we have provided everything that you have asked for again there appears to be some contradiction to the AG's opinion that basically says that the council does not set the salaries of the employees and the attempt to monitor or manage it through line items is a means of circumventing that authority. I am going to ask that legal counsel pursue this. I think it is very clear in the information that we have. I think it is a disservice to the people and it is shameful to try to make recommendations to penalize again the people who are managing this parish and have managed it for the last several years. I am sure there are other people that would have something to say and I think it is a shame that you chose to do it this way rather than an open and communicative way as we have tried to make the budget process. So that is what I have to say. I am asking my legal counsel to pursue this. This is outright means of circumventing the authority of the parish president to set salaries for her staff by amending line items."

Councilman Wright stated, "My motion was strictly to amend the line item and the budget as presented."

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to amend the 2015 proposed budget as follows: General Fund - Executive & Administrative, line item 69, salaries - Parish President to \$143,400.00, line item 71, salaries - CAO to \$94,500.00, line item 72, salaries - CFO to \$90,200.00, line item 73, salaries - Administrative Assistant to \$51,250.00, line item 74, salaries - Assistant to the Parish President to \$61,500.00, line item 75, salaries - Assistant to the Parish President to \$57,298.53, Planning & Zoning, line item 117, salary Director to \$86,452.60, Health & Human Services, line item 146, salary Director to \$73,185.00, Human Resources, line item 156, salary Director to \$75,429.75, Communications, line item 165, salary PIO to \$64,575.00, line item 166, salary Assistant to the Parish President to \$41,000.00, Purchasing Department, line item 176, salary Director to \$71,750.00, Economic Development Fund, line item 13, salary Director to \$75,429.75, Public Safety Fund, line item 12, salary Director to \$80,718.75, Public Works Fund, line item 20, salary Director to \$88,252.50, line item 21, salary Assistant to the Parish President to \$35,860.65, line item 22, salary Assistant to the Parish President to \$49,825.25, Recreation Fund, line item 22, salary Director - Zero, Wastewater Operating Fund, line item 14, salary Director to \$86,100.00. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 against (Gauff).

Councilman Wright stated, "I would also like to make a motion to amend the 2015 proposed budget as follows: Recreation Fund, line item 49, Special Needs to \$5,000.00, line item 50, Senior Program to \$5,000.00, Public Works Fund, line item 50, drainage projects to \$350,000.00, New line item on Public Works Fund for Boogie Joseph Center Improvements to

\$10,000.00, Economic Development Fund, line item 19, EDC Special Projects - Zero, line item 24, Advertising, Printing, Brochures to \$30,000.00, New line item for the Farmer's Market for \$25,000.00, General Fund, line item 84, miscellaneous to Zero, General Administration, line item 105, miscellaneous professional services to Zero."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "You heard the motion from Councilman Wright can I get a second?"

Councilman Madere stated, "I second."

Councilman Gauff stated, "Once again we have gone through this for weeks and we have had all kind of discussions and unless you have discussed this with some other council people you never mentioned anything. All the questions and emails that were sent back and forth and all of the communications nothing and then we come to the meeting and then you put something down and say you gave it to us and we all knew about it. No we all did not know about it so either you communicated with others but you didn't communicate with me. So I am just saying I am against it for your lack of communication and choosing to make some changes and not inform all of us. So I am not against what you are saying. I am against how you are saying it or how you are trying to do it."

Councilman Wright stated, "Again the motion is to make amendments if you would like to make a substitute by all means and we can always revisit this after next year also."

Councilman Gauff stated, "Actually I did ask through questions if we could amend the budget for certain line items to see if we could increase or decrease but I guess I was thinking we were trying to do something that was open and not hide from the public but on the night you want to vote then you come in and you just put this down and there has been no discussion at all. So I do feel like at least you kept me in the dark maybe you didn't keep everyone else in the dark but you kept me in the dark and I do have a problem with that."

Councilman Wright stated, "Again I will lean to the council and I can withdraw my motion and we can further discuss this and amend it towards the beginning of next year but I know just going through the budget there were some things that I did want to change and again I will yield to the council but that was it at this time for those individual items."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I just need clarification. It is my understanding that when there are increases in the budget you have to take it and identify where it comes from. Again I think this process is very poorly handled this is not an open way of doing business since this budget was presented to you in October we have offered repeatedly. We have no idea what you are talking about. You have provided nothing to us. The end of the year is near as I said my staff is on vacation. This budget goes into effect on January 1st. I think it is very inconsiderate and I think you are not representing what good government should be and that is my opinion."

Councilman Wright stated, "I will state that the Recreation Fund line

item 49 & 50, there was an increase in the line item and that would come from the Recreation Fund balance. In the Public Works Fund there was an increase in one item and a creation of a new line item 50 and the new line item would be from the fund balance. The Economic Development Fund the new line item would come from the fund balance also. We can provide administration with all of this information if this passes. I will provide them with a chart."

Councilman Wilson stated, "The people that she asked to hire I think there were 15 or 16 of them. Is that in any part of the budget that you are talking about?"

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "It is in the whole budget. We went over that at the last meeting and workshop."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I just don't understand hiring all those people. I can understand a few of them but not all of them. How many helpers does she need?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "As stated and as provided the number of unclassified employees didn't change the employees that were added were approved by this council. It was Hvac, cement finisher, an additional accountant, there are equipment operators, service techs all employees that would be out in the field."

Councilman Wilson asked, "All civil service people?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes and this was discussed in detail before it was recommended."

Vince Lucia stated, "All of you had the presentation it is on page 5. I don't know if anybody looked at it closely with the 16 people. It is all dedicated on here."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Yes we went over those at the bond and special meeting. We did talk about each individual one because I asked a question about everyone that was on there and got an explanation for it and I think everyone was on board with it."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well I am glad to see that they are putting some money in for the Seniors and the Special Needs because I think we forget about those people sometimes and there was one other area the Boogie Joseph Center it needs work done to it and that \$10,000.00 will probably just cover it. We said we are hiring plant operators or equipment operators?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "All civil service positions are advertised and posted and they go through an interview process based on their qualifications then a selection of the individuals to be interviewed and a recommendation for hire made. There are basic qualifications for different positions depending on what that job is for an equipment operator there is also an assessment done on equipment for the water plant operators there are different levels of certification that are required and at the time of the posting that is identified."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay I was just wondering. I would like to see some operators because it is my understanding that we don't have

enough equipment operators and the ones that we do have are about to retire and I am glad to see that we are going to hire some people and get some equipment operators in."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just want to make a comment and I want to thank Mr. Lucia and his staff for putting this budget together I know it was very complicated and intense and as we all know that the budget is a guideline for next year and we will obviously have additions and what have you but I wanted to thank you for all of your efforts that you did put into this."

Councilman Wilson asked, "How many of these people are going into Economic Development? How many people do we have in there now?"

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I think it was in your packet Mr. Wilson. We did discuss the number of people in there."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I just don't understand why they have four people that thing was run with two people for years and they did actually do some economic development projects now it is being used as the slush fund for everything else. I can't go for that."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Can you just clarify are we voting on the amendments, the second set so we are not actually voting on the budget yet."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "We are voting on the second amendment not the budget ordinance yet."

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to amend the 2015 proposed budget at follows: Recreation Fund, line item 49, Special Needs to \$5,000.00, line item 50, Senior Program to \$5,000.00, Public Works Fund, line item 50, drainage projects to \$350,000.00, New line item on Public Works Fund for Boogie Joseph Center Improvements to \$10,000.00, Economic Development Fund, line item 19, EDC Special Projects - Zero, line item 24, Advertising, Printing, Brochures to \$30,000.00, New line item for the Farmer's Market for \$25,000.00, General Fund, line item 84, miscellaneous to Zero, General Administration, line item 105, miscellaneous professional services to Zero. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 against (Gauff).

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Do we have any more motions for the budget ordinance? If not I will entertain a motion to accept the amended budget line items for ordinance 14-53."

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 14-53 as amended. The motion passed with 7 yeas and 2 against (Gauff & Wilson).

14-56 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to amend Chapter 40 of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances as follows: By adding new Section 40-98 as follows: "Sec. 40-98. No Parking Zones" (C. Millet)

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Just for the benefit of the public can you give a little synopsis of what this is?"

Councilwoman Millet stated, "This is an ordinance where we can allow no

parking zones in St. John which we don't have an ordinance for that now. As we bring an area that needs no parking we don't have to adjust it we can just add it to the no parking zones."

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 14-56. The motion passed unanimously.

14-57 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval for the Parish President to purchase immovable property and improvements described as 122 West 6th Street, Reserve, LA 70084 by Act of Cash Sale from Reserve Telephone Company for the price of \$150,000.00, and to execute the Act of Cash and all other documents necessary for the Parish of St. John the Baptist to acquire title to the property. (N. Robottom)

Mike Coburn stated, "This purchase was requested through the Fire Departments for storage of fire trucks, trailers and equipment in a climate controlled storage space. It would also allow for minor repairs to fire equipment in a covered space. The amount is based on the appraised value of \$150,000 for the property and the agreed upon purchase price of \$140,000 will be funded through the Office of Fire Services Budget. Administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilman Wilson moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to amend the appraised value in Ordinance 14-57 from \$150,000.00 to \$140,000.00. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 against (Snyder).

Councilman Wilson stated, "I am just asking that the parish keep this area cleaned because I know we are going to be putting equipment there and we write people up I just don't want our property to look like some of them right now."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Has anyone had the chance to look at this property lately? So we are voting blind then. I really don't think and I said it last week that we should just buy property because it is for sale. It is in the middle of a neighborhood and I believe there are going to be some issues, I really do. Now if we need a place like that for the fire department and we are building a three million dollar place I think they should put something over there and take care of this over there for everybody in the parish. I am not supporting this at all."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I had a similar concern as Councilman Snyder and maybe Mr. Coburn you can answer the questions. When I did look at where the property was located it is in a neighborhood and I know RTC was there before. Do you know what the zoning is? It is a non-conforming use or what is the current zoning of this property? I am glad Larry brought this up and maybe it is something that we might need to delay some action on it but if it is a non-conforming use if it doesn't operate any more than the residents in this area will no longer have this business next to them so it was something that I did think about. I do know that they are still maintaining their occupational license. Is this a last option or is there something else that we can look at just thinking from the perspective of the residents because it is not that you will intend for it to be anything other than up to the highest standards but we know when we are storing equipment and these types of things what happens."

Cain Dufrene stated, "This option seemed to be the most feasible and the most cost effective for what we needed it had everything that we were looking for at a much cheaper cost then we could build or buy anything for and we did talk to the neighbors to let them know that we were interested in it and they were kind of excited about it because we will have one guy there all the time. All we are doing it storage."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would yield to you Lucien I know this is your area and I don't want to miss-step on something that is in your area. Do you feel like it is okay?"

Councilman Gauff stated, "I have spoken to the residents and they are okay."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "And I didn't do that I drove by and saw it was in a residential area but I figured it was a non-conforming use."

Councilman Madere asked, "Do you plan on using the facilities exactly as is?"

Cain Dufrene stated, "Yes, well we will make some improvements on the inside but barely anything on the outside needs any work to it."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right because being non-conforming there is no possible way that you can expand."

Cain Dufrene stated, "No there is nothing that we need to add to it just fixing up a few things on the inside."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Is there a possibility that we may be fencing this area in so that it wouldn't get to a point that it would be an issue to the resident's?"

Cain Dufrene stated, "We can definitely look at that."

Councilman Wilson asked, "Are we planning on putting vehicles there or more equipment?"

Cain Dufrene stated, "Mostly spare equipment like trailers and generators and stuff we want to house over there."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Okay and the fence also I would like to see that come up."

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve amended Ordinance 14-57. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 against (Snyder).

14-58 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to amend Section 111-247 of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances as follows: By amending paragraph j)(2) to read as follows: Public Street signs (M. Wright)

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 14-58. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I would like to make a motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee."

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I did just want to comment that we did get the report for the LaPlace water study, it is at the council building so I encourage everyone to read the study from Mr. Delaun. He can get more copies if we need them I think there are four there and they were too big to email out."

Larry Snyder - (Carry Over 10-13-14) Discussion Lions Water Plant Phase VIII design

Councilman Snyder asked that this item be carried over.

Larry Snyder - Mailbox being full, unable to leave messages

Councilman Snyder stated, "This item has been addressed."

Larry Snyder - Speed bump repairs

Councilman Snyder stated, "I just want to make a statement just for understanding is that the speed bumps are put down and there is a process for putting them down and a process for removing them and if they are damaged in some way then our Public Works department will repair them. Now some people may not want them in front of their houses but that is where they were and that is where they will stay. Now if you want to remove a speed bump you need to go through that same process of getting signatures in your area I think it has to be 75% of the people on your block have to say that they want the speed bump removed and the public works department will remove it for you but it was put down there through a process and you have to use the same process to remove them."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I know we were trying to get a uniformed height and width and everything of the speed bumps and I am just trying to make sure that that has happened. Has the uniformed speed bump policy come into effect yet?"

Councilman Wright stated, "I think if I am not mistaken we did reach out to our parish engineer to design a uniformed one but I don't know if it has come to light yet but we can follow up on that. Also just to point out I have been working with Mr. Boucvalt also to kind of streamline and fix the speed bump ordinance because there was some discrepancies and it was quite old that we discovered when we had some problems with the ordinance so I am hoping we can come forward with that too."

Larry Snyder - Update on the old Bowling Alley

Mike Coburn stated, "This property was inspected and a violation for tall grass, trash and debris was mailed to the property owner on 12/8/14. The timeline for a response will be monitored and follow-up conducted as needed. We were contacted by the owner a few days ago and they asked us to give them a few weeks and they would have this cleaned up after the holidays."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I know you and I had talked about this and I was satisfied with it then but I just think it needs to be known to the people who pass there every day. Thank you very much."

Jaclyn Hotard - Sewer back-up at Cole's Landing

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I sent an email on this and it has actually been an ongoing issue I know we have talked about it at the council meetings over the last two years maybe and I just want to make sure that we have some type of resolution. I see here on the administrative report it says that there was a telemetry project out for bids, it is out for bids so does that mean that after this is done then it is not going to back up because it is definitely ongoing?"

Reed Alexander stated, "The project we had to address the issue by installing new ducts and adjust the float switches. The telemetry project will for warn us of any overflows. I am not going to guarantee that it will eliminate all overflows but it will warn us of any."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "So it is in the driveway. I know you have seen the pictures. The lady leaves for work and she has sewerage in her driveway. She has a small child but even if she didn't nobody should come out to their driveway and see the sewerage backed up. So there has to be some type of fix I just don't understand."

Reed Alexander stated, "Unfortunately the way our sewer system is designed you have a manhole in a certain area and unfortunately that house was built with the manhole in the driveway."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "And the manholes are designed to overflow that way?"

Reed Alexander stated, "That is the lowest point of the area and that is where the water will overflow."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "So there is no way to guarantee that she isn't going to walk outside and not have sewer in her driveway?"

Reed Alexander stated, "Not with our mechanical system."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay I will let the resident know. Is it a capacity issue?"

Reed Alexander stated, "It is a mechanical system and you will have some mechanical failures. I mean unfortunately the guys only check the lift stations Monday through Friday 7 to 3:30 we check a few on the weekends. We could check it right now and it could fail the minute we

walk away from it and the only way we know is by going back to the lift station to check it again. Once again the telemetry will warn us of a problem and the issue can be resolved before the capacity is met and it will eliminate the overflow."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Okay so with the system that alerts us that there is a problem then you will send someone and what will they actually go and do?"

Reed Alexander stated, "They assess the problem and correct it."

Councilman Madere asked, "When we approve these subdivisions can't Planning and Zoning tell them that they shouldn't put a driveway over a manhole? I think that is something that we have to look into because we are approving these subdivisions and then someone buys a home and they are stuck with this problem for as long as they own this home. So I think maybe that is something that we need to look into with Planning and Zoning."

Councilman Wilson stated, "They need to make a permanent fix because there is not anything out there that can't be fixed to make work. Probably with all the rain today and all the infiltration in the system she probably has that problem now. We need to get the engineers involved but there is something that can be done to correct the problem. I wouldn't want to put up with that every day."

Jeff Perrilloux stated, "On what Mr. Madere said there is a process that they go through to have the subdivisions approved. Ultimately once the subdivision is approved the infrastructure is dedicated to the parish, the parish accepts the responsibility for all the infrastructure and my suggestion on this one would be to allow the parish engineer to have a chance with the utility department to review it and see if there is some solution that they may be able to come up with specifically for this one. Beyond that I would also suggest that you all do not deliberate on it any more than you already have in an open meeting."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would just like us to find a solution. I understand that we didn't lay out this subdivision but we have to accept some type of responsibility for the suffering of our residents. So I would like to have this resolved for the sake of our resident not having to walk out to a situation like this continually."

Lennix Madere - Update on Occupational license permitting

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

Marvin Perrilloux - Discussion relative to Industrial Board

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I put this on here because I know we met a few times and had a workshop on it, we talked about it and had meetings with Mrs. Robottom and a couple of council members and we came up with some names but I just wanted to make sure do we want to proceed and develop an industrial board for this pilot program that we are talking about because these people need to be trained and I know Ms. Hotard was concerned about some of the bylaws so I put it on here just

to get your comments and see what everyone was thinking and if we want to pursue this. Let me just give you the names that we had before from the West Bank Mr. Smith suggested Mr. Herbert Smith, from the East Bank Mr. Madere suggested Mrs. Sylvia Taylor Stibe and we also came up with Raj Pannu and the Sheriff's department asked if we would have Mr. Jeff Clement and the School Board asked that we have Ms. Eliza Eugene. I put that on there if you all wanted to proceed with this if not we can make a motion tonight to accept these names but if not tonight I put it out there so that we can discuss it and see what we want to pursue so give me some comments or feedback on it."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you and I will share again my comments and you are right I did want to have legal counsel look at the bylaws of the Industrial Board the way it is set up now this board would have all the authority beyond even the administration, Council, School Board and the Sheriff's office to act on behalf of our taxes which I would never as a sitting council member relinquish that authority to just an advisory board. So I think the bylaws really need to be looked at and it will take some legal minds because there is a lot of legal language beyond my expertise but just on the surface I would definitely say that I would never give that authority to an advisory board so that would be the first step having Mr. Hugh Martin get together with legal counsel and maybe some other parishes who have them what problems have you found in your bylaws that you want to amend but you can't now because you are already established and then move forward with it. I know we had some names out there I would like to see even with Lucien and I at Large having input if we are going to look at allowing the School Board and the Sheriff's office to have members on there and I am open to that as well. Does it have to be this amount of members? Can it be 5 or 7 or something like that so that we can accommodate all of the parties that want to participate that would be something else that I would like to look at but mainly just making sure that it is done correctly and that we are not giving undue authority to an advisory board. Just as we have other advisory boards and they serve in that capacity only as advisory I just want to make sure that we are doing the same with this board because at the end of the day the constituents are going to come to us and say what happened here and you just gave all of this authority away. So I would like to look into it but proceeding definitely with caution. It is something that we have never done before. It is something that is going to take a lot of due diligence and a lot of thorough research so I would like to do that also with the creation of the board and that was basically what I sent out in the email that I am sharing tonight."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Thank you Ms. Hotard and I am looking for feedback."

Councilman Wright stated, "I just have to agree with Ms. Hotard I think having an advisory board is definitely something that needs to be done and if we can get with legal to review it and maybe amend the bylaws I am ready to move forward with it."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I just want to build on what they said and I feel the same way. I don't think that board should have the authority to make all the decisions. I think we should have the final decision but I do believe we should go forward with it."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I would have to agree with all of you. I do think it is something that we need that will help at least get us to the table on some of the economic development issues that we have had and we possibly could have come to the table by having this Industrial Board and having them available so that they can get educated on the process also but I am kind of hesitant on giving up all of those rights also. I would think the administration would be hesitant also especially if we are going to put forth a board that is going to represent all of us. I do agree with all of you."

Councilman Madere stated, "I also agree with everyone. I think it is good to have the board to make suggestions but the authority should lie with the council. We make the decisions and I think the advisory board speaks for itself they advise the council and then we make the final decision."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I just want to say that I hope we can expedite this and get the legal involved and all the information from any other municipality that has an Industrial Board and find out what they have done don't reinvent the wheel but learn from them and move this process forward for us."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Thank you so much I was looking for some feedback so January 2015 we will address this again and take it up with legal so thank you."

OLD BUSINESS:

Ranney Wilson/Lennix Madere - Drainage and Drainage equipment

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Ranney Wilson - Overturn trailer placement denial - Ralph & Sharon Keating - 360 Historic West Street - Garyville

Councilman Wilson stated, "I have a couple that were living in a trailer at this address. The trailer became unlivable and they tore the trailer down and got a permit to put their other trailer. Well the man that they were buying a trailer from left with their trailer and their money. They have been living in a tent for the last year. They have another trailer and I am asking that they be allowed like I said they did have the permit so I ask that they be allowed a permit now."

MOTION: Councilman Wilson moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to overturn the trailer placement denial for Ralph & Sharon Keating - 360 Historic West Street in Garyville. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Lennix Madere - 205 E. 30th Street

Larry Snyder - Building at Cambridge and Airline Hwy. graffiti removal

Parish Buildings - Security

Water bill issues

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

Lennix Madere - Code Enforcement

Lennix Madere - Water bills - amoeba update

Water District #1 System issues/State DHH order

Any and all pending legal matters

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

14-59 An ordinance granting approval of a Re-subdivision of Tract 1 of Wego Plantation north of Louisiana Highway 3127 into Tracts 1-A & 1-B, located in Section 12, T-12-S, R-18-E, Southeastern Land District, West of the Mississippi River, Edgard, St. John the Baptist Parish (PZS-14-1097) (N. Robottom)

PARISH PRESIDENT REMARKS

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good evening - It is with great excitement that I report that the Army Corps of Engineer Civil Works Review Board unanimously approved release of the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement for state and agency review. The proposed \$718 million project needed the board's final approval before it can be sent to Congress for funding. The feasibility study and environmental impact statement will remain open for 30 days and a Chief's Report is expected to be completed by April of 2015 and sent to Congress for authorization and appropriation of funds. In other great news, on Friday DHH confirmed results from water samples taken earlier this month in Water District #1 tested negative for the presence of ameba. Later is now safe for all uses. Utilities will continue a free chlorine treatment in the affected district with a plan to switch back to a chloramine system after January 1, 2015. Residents will be notified of this change in advance. We want to thank our residents for their patience and cooperation and reassure them that we will continue our all-out efforts to ensure this never happens again. The Administrative staff and employees recently teamed up to assemble 27 holiday food baskets for families in need this holiday season. The baskets of non-perishable food items, gift certificates, and holiday fixings were distributed Friday morning. Thanks to all involved for their generosity. Congratulations to everyone involved with the successful opening of the Creole Farmers' Market at the foot

of the Veterans Memorial Bridge in Wallace. Over 400 people were in attendance and it was a beautiful day. The Farmers' Market is open on Saturdays from 9 am to 3 pm; however it is closed on Saturday, December 27 and Saturday, January 3 for the holidays. Vendor applications are available online at sjbparish.com. I would like to thank Ms. Rhonda Lemons, the Health and Human Services Department as well as all sponsors and vendors who participated in the Health Fair. Attendees received important health and wellness information, screenings and free consultations with pharmacists. Thanks again for your hard work. Thank you to the local Toys for Tots organization and Riverland's Christian Center for hosting the annual toy giveaway in Reserve. The smiles on the children's faces were priceless and reminded all of us that giving back is the real reason for the season. We hope you enjoyed participating in our Shop Local Trivia game this month. Participants with correct answers can win gift cards and other prizes from local retailers. Winners will be announced on December 30th so stay tuned. Congratulations to King Ronald Holland and Queen Brannetter James, on their reign over the 2015 Krewe of Agape Carnival Organization Court. This season's ball will be held on January 10 and we wish you all the best. Congratulations to Donald "Donoo" Brady, Karen Bailey and Virgie Johnson on their honorable retirement as constable. Mr. Brady and Mrs. Bailey served St. John for 30 years and Ms. Virgie Johnson for 16 years. Thank you for your service to our Parish. REMINDER: Parish Offices will be closed a ½ day on Wednesday, December 24, Thursday, December 25, Friday, December 26, Thursday, January 1 and Friday, January 2 for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. On behalf of everyone in our office, I'd like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday with family and friends. Happy Holidays and God Bless."

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:58 PM, Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Marvin Perrilloux
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary