

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH, 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 McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, December 27, 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, Michael Wright, Councilman District V, Larry Snyder, Councilman District VI, Raj Pannu, Councilwoman District VII, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilwoman-at-Large, Div. B

ABSENT: Marvin Perrilloux

Councilman Snyder led the Prayer. Councilwoman Remonet led the Pledge.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:

Natalie Robottom - Presentation - (Carry Over 12/13/16) 2015 Andouille Queens - Keys to the Parish

Natalie Robottom presented the Keys to the Parish to the 2015 Andouille Queens Madison King and Teen Queen Tabitha Tregre. It was mentioned that Madison King has also won the title of Queen of Queens for the state of Louisiana. They both thanked the council and the administration for their support throughout their reign.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - December 13th, 2016, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - WSJ Civic Association Annual MLK March - 1/16/17 - Noon - 2979 Hwy. 18 - Edgard

MOTION: Councilman Sorapuru and Councilman Becnel seconded to the motion to approve the consent agenda items: Approval of Minutes - December 13th, 2016, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - WSJ Civic Association Annual MLK March - 1-16-17 - Noon - 2979 Hwy. 18 - Edgard. The motion passed with Councilmen 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)

Councilman Wright stated, "At this time I would like to ask for a motion from the council to amend Ordinance 16-53 to reflect the amendments made in

amendment #1 which was provided to you guys. Can I have a motion on the amendment to Ordinance 16-53?"

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to add amendment #1 to Ordinance 16-53. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Councilman Snyder asked, "On line 187, what does that mean?"

Ross Gonzales stated, "When we introduced the budget we had an incorrect salary of \$64,500.00."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay I see. I am okay with that."

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 16-53 with amendment #1 (attached hereto). The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would just like to thank my fellow council members this has probably been one of the smoothest budgets that we have had and I think it was attributed to the fact that we had so many budget workshops and so sometimes they were long and tiring but I really think that everybody kind of came together with a good document and it represents and reflects the wishes of the council and the administration. So I just want to thank everyone that was involved because for many years it has become very tedious and lengthy and you want to take the time on it but I do appreciate the fact that we did work very hard on it. We got a good final document so I just wanted to say thanks to everyone because some years as some of us know it is not as smooth. So thank you."

16-57 (Carry Over 12-13-16) 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 administration requests that this item be removed from the agenda until further notice.

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 Madere 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:

Marvin Perrilloux - Temporary appointment beginning January 1st, 2017 of Mary Numa as "Acting Registrar of Voters" until the position is filled

Councilman Wright stated, "Just for clarification, because we have a vacancy because our Registrar of Voters has just announced her retirement we are temporarily appointing an interim ROV until the council fills the position in January."

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to grant the temporary appointment beginning January 1st, 2017 of Mary Numa as "Acting Registrar of Voters" until the position is filled. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R16-53 - A Resolution requesting the Louisiana State Legislature to rename LA 3224 (Hemlock Street) in LaPlace within St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana, to "Spencer's Way"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Because Hemlock Street is a state roadway, this name change requires Legislative action. The request was made by Chief Cain Dufrene on behalf of the firefighters to recognize the contributions made by Chief Spencer Chauvin who tragically lost his life on August 28, 2016. Administration recommends approval."

The family of Spencer Chauvin were present at the meeting and all came up to accept the Resolution on his behalf. The council expressed their condolences to the family and all of the fire department on the loss of such a dedicated, selfless man who gave his life doing what he loved. There will be a dedication/celebration when the street is officially names "Spencer's Way".

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to approve Resolution R16-53 - A resolution requesting the Louisiana State Legislature to rename LA 3224 (Hemlock Street) in LaPlace within St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana, to "Spencer's Way" **WHEREAS**, in an attempt to recognize the many contributions made by Spencer Chauvin who tragically lost his life on duty on the grim day of August 28, 2016 and to honor his service as a courageous and compassionate leader, and one who dedicated his entire life to the Fire Department and serving the community here in St. John the Baptist Parish, and **WHEREAS**, Spencer Chauvin is remembered as a person of integrity, honor, character and courage who provided effective and extemporany leadership as District Fire Chief in the St. John the Baptist Parish Fire Department **NOW BE IT RESOLVED**, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council that it does hereby urge, implore and request the STATE OF LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE to rename LA 3224 (Hemlock Street) in LaPlace within St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana to "Spencer's Way". The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

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

The above item was carried over to the next 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:

Notice of Public Meeting

Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 6:30 PM at the Joel McTopy Chambers, 1801 W. Airline Hwy., LaPlace, Louisiana, the Parish Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling an election to be held in Parish of St. John the Baptist to authorize the levy of an ad valorem tax.

16-58 An ordinance authorizing the Parish President to execute an Act of Lease with the St. John Theatre, Inc., a non-profit, for a period of 10 years, for an annual payment of \$1.00 per year with St. John Theatre paying the liability insurance for the building. This lease will hold the Parish Council harmless from any and all claims by or liability to third persons. Such lease agreement will be executed and approved by legal counsel. (N. Robottom)

16-59 An ordinance to rescind Ordinance 16-52. (L. Sorapuru)

PRESIDENT REPORT:

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good evening, I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and enjoyed time spent with family and friends. Parish officials and employees recently teamed up to assemble 44 food baskets for families in need this holiday season. The baskets of non-perishable food items, gift certificates, and holiday fixings were distributed Wednesday morning just in time for Christmas. I want to thank my staff and all involved for your generosity, Health and Human Services staff and the Fire Dept for making deliveries to those who were unable to pick up their baskets. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to Jamie Angotti and her family for stopping by the St. Andrews Fire Station on Christmas and bringing those working a delicious meal and desserts since they could not be home on the holiday. There was so much food that it was also brought and shared with the other fire stations. Thanks again for your generosity Jamie Angotti and for helping our first responders have a Merry Christmas away from their families. We hope you enjoyed participating in our Shop Local Trivia game this month. The deadline to turn in shop local cards is December 28th. Participants with correct answers can win gift cards and other prizes from local retailers. Winners will be announced this week. As the last regular meeting of the year comes to a close and we approach the new year, it's a good time to reflect on some of the accomplishments and progress made in 2016 and set goals for improvement in 2017. This process has started with each department and my Administrative staff and I look forward to continuing to serve the residents and business owners of the parish. In the upcoming weeks, all of the Parish households will receive a progress report that highlights some of the major projects and programs from 2016 and initiatives that are under way for 2017. We ask that our residents review this report to see what's happening parish wide with your tax dollars and other investments. We close 2016 with exciting news as the President signed the Water Infrastructure for the Nation (WIIN) Act, formerly known as the WRDA bill, which includes the Westshore Lake Pontchartrain Levee Project for St. John, St. James

and St. Charles Parishes. The Levee Project, which will greatly protect St. John against storm surge and flooding is finally authorized after many years of work. Funding for the project, including the local match is the next order of business and you'll be hearing more about that soon. We also received confirmation that we were approved for a \$75,000 grant through the Southern Rail Commission to study a possible rail depot and transportation stop in our Parish. The monies will be used aimed to improve safety, access, and convenience. This is great news for St. John and we expect to see the funding next year. The St. John Relay for Life Team in coordination with the American Cancer Society will be hosting a Blood Drive on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the shopping center near the former Radio Shack, next to the Percy Hebert Building. We are encouraging our employees, Sheriff's Office, Assessor and Registrar staff and all of our residents to donate to this great cause and help raise money for Cancer awareness and research. I, again, am grateful for the support and encouragement this year and approach 2017 with excitement. Please visit the updated parish website at www.sjbparish.com to view our latest news and upcoming events and sign up for emergency notifications to your home, cell and email. REMINDER: Parish Offices will be closed Monday, January 2, 2017 in observance of the New Year's Holiday. While we hope that you have an enjoyable holiday, we ask that you be mindful of the firework regulations in place to ensure your safety. Fireworks can lawfully be discharged in St. John on New Year's Eve from dusk until 1:00 a.m. and New Year's Day from dusk until 10:00 p.m. No fireworks should be discharged closer than 500 feet from any hospital, church, nursing home or school and should always be discharged with proper supervision from an adult. More information can be found on the government access channel and website. Again - have a safe and Happy New Year!"

COUNCIL BRIEFS:

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would like to suspend the rules at this time to follow what we did for Thanksgiving in giving the employees a half a day off on Friday, December 30th, 2016."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to suspend the rules to add to the agenda to give the employees a half of a day off on Friday, December 30th, 2016. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "So I would like that to be my motion."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to give the employees a half of a day off on Friday, December 30th, 2016. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:10 PM, Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

/s/Michael Wright
COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary