

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**CHAIR JACLYN HOTARD**  
**VICE CHAIR LENNIX MADERE**

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in a Special Council Meeting in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at Noon.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ABSENT:** Michael Wright and Marvin Perrilloux

Councilman Snyder led the Prayer. Councilman Smith led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Jeff Perilloux and Carl Butler were present.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to take a recess. The motion passed with Councilmen Wright and Perilloux absent.

**MOTION:** Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed with Councilmen Wright and Perilloux absent.

**Lennix Madere - Parish Holiday**

*Councilman Madere stated, "I placed this on the agenda because there was a lot of confusion from the last meeting as to if the holiday was going to be granted or not even though it was approved by the council. I just wanted to talk to legal and everyone else to make sure that we have this straight and the information that I received was very helpful that the individual that definitely has the authority to grant holidays is the council. So I just wanted to get that out moving forward when holidays come up that the council may want to grant that we don't have this sort of problem as to when the employees know or don't know because it wasn't until 6:35 PM on Christmas day before an email went out telling them that they had that following day off. So I think we need to just clear that up so that moving forward we don't have any problems so that is why I had it on the agenda."*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "For clarification purposes we did consult with legal and although the council has the authority to grant holidays there is a process for doing that and a time line that was not followed. Unfortunately it was not communicated to the parish or the president Thursday was payroll which interfered with our ability to pay some of our employees and the timeline for doing so for a motion going*

into effect is five days and according to the information we received it would have had to have been introduced by ordinance because it was so late and without prior knowledge that caused confusion in our office and our response from legal wasn't obtained until Christmas day so that was the reason I decided because the holiday that was granted was not done properly to close the offices. So at that point because of the confusion that was created with some departments and with people thinking they were off and with others possibly making plans based on that vote I elected to close the offices and that is why the email went out but not to discount the council's authority according to the civil service manual with regards to granting holidays there is a process and that process wasn't followed or communicated and therefore it caused the problems that it did and ultimately a decision was made to close the offices and that was made once we had information from our legal counsel."

Councilman Madere stated, "The information I received from legal counsel today is that we have the authority and we don't have to have an ordinance for an ordinance that has already been passed. It is just a matter of voting when the holiday is going to be granted and previous holidays, as far as half days, definitely didn't follow the procedure that you are talking about now as far as five days' notice because sometimes it was just granted at the last minute that the employee would get off at Noon."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think Mr. Madere what you are referencing is the difference between the council's authority and the parish presidents and typically I don't grant holidays but I can close the office so there have been times that we have closed the office. So I think there is a variation in authority and we will allow legal counsel to address that. The email I received was very clear on the process not being followed. Again a decision was made unfortunately it was last minute because we didn't get clarification until the middle of the day on Christmas and our authorities are very different in terms of what the council is allowed to do and what the parish president can do. I have declared no holidays. It was a matter of closing the office or closing it early or dismissing early which is within my authority."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay once again I am going to reply according to the ordinance that we have and it is not necessary and I think that legal will agree that you don't need to have an ordinance for an ordinance that is already established so we do have the authority to grant holidays and all these other procedures five days and all that you are saying is not stated or written down anywhere in black and white."

Tom Daley, District Attorney, stated, "First I want to thank everyone for their prayers and well wishes during my medical treatment these past few weeks. I apologize for not being available to respond to all emails but responding from a hospital room on my cell phone was difficult. With regards to the holiday I did receive and inquiry from administration concerning the declaration of a holiday and I responded to it and my initial thought and I wasn't at my office so I didn't have access to do extensive research but my initial reaction was that the parish council had the authority to grant holidays pursuant to your authority to adopt personal rules and basically they have all been adopted in the past by ordinance so my advice to administration was

that it needed to be done by ordinance and I sent that email out as a quick response to the inquiry. So the mistake about you needing an ordinance came from my email. Since then I have had some clarification from Councilwoman Hotard and I did some research and I sent her a clarification today telling her - Dear Jaclyn you are correct the civil service rules section 10.3 entitled holidays states in addition any day declared a holiday by the President of the United States, the Governor of the state of Louisiana or the Governing body shall be observed as an additional holiday. Since the rules were adopted by ordinance my initial thought was that the holiday schedule set forth in 10.3 should be amended by ordinance but upon looking at the language closely one can certainly take the position that the governing authority has the authority to declare additional holidays given the Governor's practice of declaring additional holidays during Christmas and New Year's over the past several years I wasn't sure why additional holidays were necessary. I personally think we have enough holidays but I am sure that the council had a good reason for declaring an additional holiday and I am here to clarify that the council has the authority to declare additional holidays but I am just asking you to be considerate of administration. The fact of the matter is we run utility departments, we have sewer plants, we have pump stations to maintain and people have to work in order for us to service the community and we just have to be mindful of that. If we are going to create schedules we have to be fair to the employees and make sure that we give administration sufficient time to adequately prepare for that because those employees that are on call or have to maintain our utility department are entitled to the holiday off or holiday pay and that affects everybody especially payroll. So again I take responsibility for at least the initial reaction that an ordinance may have been a way to proceed and I have been corrected and I apologize for any confusion that may have caused."

Councilman Madere stated, "Thank you I just wanted to make sure that we get that established that the council does have the authority to do this and I understand you're feeling about holidays but once again that is left up to the discretion of this council to determine if we are going to grant additional holidays and any procedure that we have to go through to get that accomplished then it will just have to be handled at that time."

Tom Daley stated, "Section 10.3 gives you the authority."

Councilman Madere stated, "Thank you."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Tom just a question real quick the statement about motions need five days to take effect. Is that motions or only ordinances?"

Tom Daley stated, "Well ordinances have direct time tables. The civil service rules don't clarify if it has to be done by ordinance or motion. Clearly if you change the schedule it has to be done by ordinance. This is really declaration of an additional holiday sometimes it could be an emergency, sometimes it can be a celebration hopefully the Saints will win the Superbowl and we will have another holiday."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "And those simple motions don't become effective at the five days like an ordinance, they become effective at

*the time that we declare it?"*

*Tom Daley stated, "Well I mean subject to review by administration but basically veto power has to do with ordinances and not motions. Again I just ask everybody to be considerate of the dynamics involving employment and employee relations. It is just something that we cannot ignore."*

*Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Let me ask you this whenever like president Robottom stated like closing the office at 12:00. If we close the office at 12:00 but we pay the employee for a full day is that considered a holiday? Does she have that authority to close at 12:00 but still pay employees for a full day?"*

*Tom Daley stated, "Well I know in the past there has been some early closing most of those tend to be related to the Governor calling a holiday. I know for instance my office doesn't close without a court order closing the court house. When we get a court order closing the court house I issue a directive that the court house is closed and we are closing the office. So we just have to use some discretion and common sense with regards to applying those."*

*Councilwoman Hotard asked, "So can we close the office at 12:00 and pay employees for the full day if it doesn't coincide with a day that the governor has already declared?"*

*Tom Daley stated, "Well the language is pretty clear on who has the authority to declare it. The council does, the governor and the president of the United States."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "That answered my question mostly it almost sounds like some antics here whereas the parish president can declare the office closed and everybody take off but we have to go through an ordinance to do the same thing. That just didn't make any sense to me but that cleared it up. So am I correct in saying that if we declare a day off and the office closed that gives everybody the right to take off the next day if we call it for the next day that is my question to legal?"*

*Tom Daley stated, "Councilman Snyder you certainly have the authority but there are some public safety issues involved with okay once you declare a holiday who is manning the fire house, who is manning the sewer plant these are issues that have to be addressed and have to be dealt with and we just can't tell everybody go home and have a holiday there are other issues that have to be addressed that the parish president has to deal with and I am not going to tie her hands on that."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "I am not asking you to. I just want to know the difference. Is there a difference between declaring the office closed or declaring a holiday and that is all I want to know. Is there a difference? Legally is there a difference? Does it make a difference if it is one day, three days or five days?"*

*Tom Daley stated, "I don't know anything about the days. Here is what I know the public buildings have been closed several times due to weather emergencies. It wasn't a holiday it was based on a weather emergency"*

*and the public buildings were closed and the parish president issued an executive order declaring that. It wasn't declaring a holiday it was saying the storm is coming everybody needs to go home."*

Councilman Snyder stated, "I understand that and I appreciate that so I think my question was answered."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "So on those emergency days but we went back to 2013 and 2012 and on the majority of the holiday's like the day before Thanksgiving, the day before Good Friday where an email was sent sending employees home at 12:00 but paying them for a full day that didn't coincide with the governor's holiday and it wasn't part of a declaration of emergency the parish president doesn't have the authority to declare holiday half days is that correct?"

Tom Daley stated, "The civil service rule doesn't give the parish president the authority to declare a holiday."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you but if you are paying people for not working then what is that called?"

Tom Daley stated, "But she certainly has some authority over employees and when they work and when they don't work but I am not going to declare that she has the kind of authority that the civil service rules specifically give the council."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Correct thank you."

Councilman Madere stated, "Just one more issue concerning that I understand what you said about the fire house when we declare a holiday those same issues also exist when you declare a half a day the same issues that you brought up when we declare a holiday don't go away they are still there. So whenever we do declare a holiday we will take that into consideration but it still exists if you grant a half a day or a full day. The same issues that you brought up still exist."

Tom Daley stated, "I didn't come here today to debate the practices over the last two years and frankly this tit for tat kind of gets me a little dry mouthed so maybe we can move on and discuss the budget."

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**13-48** (Tabled 12-23-13) (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance introducing the annual operating budgets for St. John Parish General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds and Parishwide Sewerage Construction Fund for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2014. (N. Robottom)

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to remove Ordinance 13-48 from the table. The motion passed with Councilmen Wright and Perilloux absent.

Tom Daley stated, "I am here today specifically to answer any questions that any council member might have in regards to the general fund budget, the district attorney's office or the criminal court fund budget. I fund both of those budgets and provide resources from my office and I have worked very closely with administration and Vince

Lucia with regards to the adoption of those numbers and I am prepared to answer any questions that the council may have with regards to those budgets, the revenue items and the expenditures."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I don't have anything for Mr. Daley my question is pertaining to the fire department there were some numbers in there that I just didn't understand and I would like to understand it just a little bit and we really don't have to go through too much just give me a simple answer one was under administrative fees in the fire department and I was looking at some numbers and they ranged from \$40,000.00 to \$140,000.00 with the different fire departments and my question is what is in that number and why is it such a big difference from department to department? Are these salaries?"

Vince Lucia stated, "With the administrative fees we pay the actual personnel in the department of public safety and what we do is we reimburse for the administrative fees regarding the salaries for the department of public safety and we have four people in that department that are getting paid through payroll and of course they all work for each of the budgets combined so that is why the administrative fees are associated with that."

Councilman Snyder asked, "You say we are paying four people one for each fire department or four from each fire department?"

Vince Lucia stated, "No there are actually administrative fees for the public safety department that is another budget that is associated with this. A portion of their salaries is being transferred to the department of public safety."

Councilman Snyder asked, "And that is under administrative fees? I think you answered that question and the fire service office fund is \$118,000.00 is that the same thing?"

Vince Lucia stated, "Yes that portion is transferred to salaries also."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay and now also under all of these departments again they have personal and expense reimbursement and that ranges from \$20,000.00 to \$5,000.00 and actually one of the smaller ones is \$20,000.00 and I was just wondering why there is such a big difference? What is that reimbursement? Did someone go on a trip and we paid for it when they got back? All of them have it."

Jobe' Boucvalt stated, "We have like the Garyville budget they were hurting and we were making some transfers to there to help them out but when you see the difference in the numbers from one department to the next they are all based off of percentages that is why you are going to see a difference in the numbers and the reimbursement could be milage reimbursement for their vehicles if they went to some type of training or anything along those lines. Typically all the firemen will go to one event a year to get training or a conference and in some cases maybe the assistant fire chief will go also."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Okay do we just pay for one vehicle because I am looking at \$20,000.00 for one of these for milage."

Jobe' Boucvalt stated, "Each one of your fire chiefs has a personal

vehicle."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So this is just milage more or less because there is another item there that says training and travel and that is another number and when we are looking at this budget I think these are the things that we need to look at because I don't think we should just let people spend money because they are reporting to us. I think we still need to keep a lid on some of this stuff and I just want to know what personal expenses are \$20,000.00 and if I can't see it now I would like to get something from Vince and maybe we can talk about it next week."

Jobe' Boucvalt stated, "Okay I can get the information for you Mr. Snyder."

Vince Lucia stated, "The travel and training is for the actual travel and training and the personal expense reimbursement we have someone from that department that can provide us with that really quickly right off the top of my head it is a combination of a couple of different items that is posted to here. It is associated with this but I would have to clarify that with them real quickly and we will have an answer shortly for you."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I can get it next week I just want to know if we have some opportunities there. Also I know it might sound like I am nit picking but I am not if you look at some of these numbers on the leases that we have I don't know why we got under lease payments under all the departments but I am looking at one department had \$120,000.00 in lease payments last year and this year they have \$17,000.00 now that makes sense if we were leasing fire trucks but on the West Bank under lease payments they have zero, Garyville has \$38,000.00 and Reserve has \$65,000.00. What are we leasing?"

Vince Lucia stated, "We have certain leases in certain departments and in some departments they have expired so there may not be in the line item for 2014 but the actual leases again I would have to look because I don't recall exactly what piece of equipment. If you would have indicated through an email or something to want that specific item I could get it for you very shortly but I don't have it on the top of my head for each item."

Councilman Snyder stated, "That is exactly what I was talking to you about some time ago in that a director or a leader should know their budget inside and out. There should be someone in this room to explain that to me but we are expected to give these people raises every year."

Jobe' Boucvalt stated, "I have the chief of operations, Cane Dufresne and he can answer some of these questions for you."

Cane Dufresne, Fire Department Chief of Operations, stated, "The personal reimbursement goes to the volunteer side that is for the guys they get a percent to go on calls and training so the volunteers get reimbursement for making calls and training throughout the parish that is what the reimbursement fee is."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Do they have some type of schedule on that?"

Cane Dufresne stated, "They get \$10.00 per call and \$10.00 for every training that they attend to give them some type of incentive to actually come out and participate."

Councilman Snyder stated, "That makes sense thank you very much and these lease payments what is that like I said one was \$120,000.00 last year."

Cane Dufresne stated, "If you look at LaPlace's budget their lease payments are for fire trucks they purchased a few years ago they do lease payments to keep the cost down instead of doing it in one lump sum out of their budget they do a lease payment for five to six years so that is what LaPlace's ones are and I am sure that is what the others are too."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So how long do these fire trucks last?"

Cane Dufresne stated, "Some last pretty good we don't beat them up too much."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So we lease them like this every year?"

Cane Dufresne stated, "No it is a lease purchase note so after the lease is done we own the fire truck."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Okay so the West Bank didn't have any fire trucks they leased? I thought that was maybe on generators. We don't lease generators for the station do we?"

Cane Dufresne stated, "No it is usually just fire trucks."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So we finished paying on the fire truck for LaPlace?"

Cane Dufresne stated, "There should be two."

Councilman Snyder stated, "That is great. We can save a lot of money there. One other thing these professional fees these jumped out at me because I thought all of our fire departments were pretty much the same and I know some are larger and gas will be higher and things like that but I am looking at professional fees for one at \$154,000.00 and another one was just \$25,000.00. If we have professional fees where did that come from?"

Cane Dufresne stated, "That was for their administrative help their secretaries and stuff like that they were paying that out of professional fees and we just recently moved that to the fire services budget to come out of the fire services salaries."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay and I also saw our expeditor or a person that we call when there is a fire the dispatcher I saw under one there was no salary for that person. Has that salary been moved to another department?"

Vince Lucia stated, "What we do is we reimburse the sheriff's office for the 911 dispatcher and we have a couple of different departments that pay a portion of that on a quarterly basis."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay thank you very much."

Vince Lucia stated, "With the leases we can give you the expiration for the lease once we get that information."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well I'm satisfied with the big lease because if that is what it is for the truck I can understand that that isn't a problem because I see them moving all the time in LaPlace and I hate to do this but let's jump to the community center. It looks like we transferred some money out of the community center fund but all the money that went into the community center was generated by the community center and I am wondering why do we have to transfer money out of the community center?"

Vince Lucia stated, "The amount for \$90,035.00 is a debt fee for the community center that goes through the general fund. It is actually being transferred to the general fund to pay the debt. We started that some years ago for the sound stage and I don't know when the total term ends but I think it may be a ten year term but I would have to clarify that. The money is transferred to the general fund to pay the debt. The one for \$105,000.00 is a combination of our administrative fees that we transfer to the general fund for all of the administrative work that is being done with this fund."

Councilman Snyder asked, "What kind of administrative work is that?"

Vince Lucia stated, "Well we have most of the administration in general fund works for the community center and if you look at the general fund we have several administrative fees from different departments for the time that administration works for all of these budgets."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Alright if you break it down when I ask what are those fees do you see what I am talking about?"

Vince Lucia stated, "Keep in mind that the \$105,000.00 is the majority of the debt fee. That creates the debt and the \$15,000.00 for the administrative fees that is a separate line item."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you sir. You know I was looking at the sales tax district fund and the question came up to me was how does it look to you as far as sustainability long term for the sales tax district?"

Vince Lucia stated, "Well based on this calendar year so far we still have two months of revenues to collect but based on what we budgeted this year it is about a 2% higher difference then what we budgeted so we anticipate at least no more than probably a 3% increase but of course with the end of the year with the sales tax for the holidays and so forth it normally goes higher than some of the other months but anyway it is right on track for what we have budgeted to be honest with you."

Councilman Snyder stated, "So you are saying that if we look at the last three years or so the sales tax district fund looks great. Would you say it looks solid?"

Vince Lucia stated, "Yes to be honest with you the last couple of years it was increased based on our budget amount not for a large amount but I think last year for 2012 based on what we budgeted we collected 6% more than what was budgeted for 2012."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay I just have one other question. The street light fund it was an increase in salary of \$120,000.00 and the insurance was \$48,000.00. Did we hire a couple of more people to work in that department? I am concerned about the \$48,000.00. What does this \$48,000.00 represent our insurance person who insures us that didn't go up any unless this is part of a life insurance amount? Okay I was told it was a salary. I was looking for this and the reason I asked that question for the sales tax district is because I was looking at the fund balance and it has been dropping since 2011 and according to the budget for 2014 I am sure there are going to be some things transferred into or out of there it is down to 5.9 million dollars. I don't know what that means and that is why I am asking these questions. If it means something then we need to look at it. If it doesn't mean anything then I am not concerned."

Vince Lucia stated, "Let me just mention this in 2013 we had a couple of amendments transferring additional money to the R&B department based on the \$900,000.00 increase that we talked about that was for 2013 but originally the budget amount transfer out was 3.8 million for 2013 and we added another \$900,000.00 so that of course reduces your fund balance to that extent and of course in the 2014 we reduced it well let's just say well you made a motion to add the \$300,000.00 that's going to be added once you adopt the budget we will have that change made based on your motion so actually the fund balance will be lesser than what is on the fund budget now."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Exactly. So you said we transferred 3 million dollars out of there?"

Vince Lucia stated, "\$300,000.00 is the motion you made."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I know but you said something earlier about 3 million that was transferred out of there for R&B because my question was just that it is dropping and from 8 million dollars from 2013 and it is going to drop to 5.9 million at the end of 2014."

Vince Lucia stated, "Again just let me say too on the 2013 budget until we had the actual sales tax that comes in we will amend that at year end so it is going to be somewhat different and on the other hand though the numbers in the 2013 transfer outs and the budget amount is going to change somewhat. I don't know exactly to the extent it will but it shouldn't be that big of a difference."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Just a couple of things Mr. Snyder I think Vince talked about several things in the answer and I would just like to clarify on an annual basis the sales tax district funds other departments so we are always going to transfer money out it collectively goes to fund wastewater distribution, wastewater and public works. Last year we had some unexpected expenses we purchased property as a result of some legal action. We purchased some equipment and there were additional cost we did some more roads so we came to the council with an amendment I think there may have been some cost

associated with Hurricane Isaac and sent out something early saying look we are going to be short in PW and we are going to need to make an amendment to add more money because of the things that we had to buy again all legitimate expenses that were not foreseen. So the \$900,000.00 that we amended the budget to transfer were to cover cost that we hadn't anticipated which were approved. So that affects the fund balance. So I think what Vince is saying is that yes we do have some concerns but there are some things that we can't avoid for example settling litigation, purchases that were unforeseen but necessary requirement for the hurricane and this money is here. No it is not a good practice to continue to eat into your fund balance which is why there was some hesitancy on an additional \$300,000.00 transfer early in the year with the anticipation that we actually had money for roads and that was Vince's initial concern but clearly we have to cover the cost of the things that we need and this is where the money is coming from but over time we want to try to settle more on a number and stay in that area and stay within our budget so that we are not continuing to eat at the fund balance. So yes it was unusual no this is not a trend that we want to continue which is why we are continued to focus on funding departments with their own funds instead of to continue to transfer we have gotten a lot better at our water and wastewater departments so we are seeing less money having to come from the sales tax district to go there because they are better able to support themselves but PW's which is the area that most people want to see the work done requires more money. We are attempting to move people out of the budget and put them where they belong and free up the dollars to do more but when we don't have the dollars we relied on the fund balance to be able to meet that on this budget so in the past when we didn't have enough money to cover what was required in PW which was the purchases of the building, the additional equipment, the cars and all of those things that were part of PW's budget we had to make an amendment that was approved by the council and we utilized dollars from the fund balance."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Is there any money that is going to be reimbursed to us from the hurricane funds so that we can start putting money back in?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "It all depends we have actually secured about 2 million but they go back to where they were spent for example at the time the expenditures a lot of them came from wastewater because that was a fund that actually had money so when we get a reimbursement it has to go back to wastewater but we have recently just started to get a few reimbursements to PW's and that will go into PW but wherever we extended the dollars is where we have to put them back."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I heard you mention that we did use some money out of there for the hurricane."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Additionally and unfortunately but we are working on that as well some of the grant funds that funded the work through Gustav was paid for out of PW's so as we get those dollars back in they are going back to PW's so we are starting to get money back into PW for some of the dollars that were expended like on the home program some of the drainage projects that were funded through grants that money goes back into the PW's budget."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay so the sustainability of this particular fund what do you think about it?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think if we manage it and continue to do so I think it will remain steady of course sales taxes are difficult to predict so we have to monitor those very closely. We do get a report monthly. We monitor the change. Our budgets are projected based on previous history and what the forecast are and we do tend to budget conservatively and that is why you see the revenue is based on what we anticipate so when we get 2% more than we expected it isn't something ecstatic but it is better to get more than you expected than less. So I think the finance department has done a great job of monitoring and projecting and that is what it is based on history and what the forecast suggest. We work with the assessor's office who again we all look at numbers we can take those numbers at face value or we can project conservatively because we would rather get more than less."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So this 5.9 million doesn't reflect the ordinance that we passed?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "It will. It hasn't yet."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "In the airport authority I know that we no longer manage that and it is done by the port and all of that stuff but I noticed in this year's budget we have \$3,500.00 what is that for?"

Vince Lucia stated, "That is part of the insurance that we are still paying for."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Are we going to pay for that forever? I noticed in the 2013 budget it wasn't there but now it is showing back up in 2014."

Natalie Robottom stated, "It was kind of something that was suggested by our legal counsel that during the middle of the transfer Hurricane Isaac hit and there was some damages to the airport and I think it was recommended and approved by the council that we would continue to have joint insurance on the property until we resolved all the hurricane related issues. So we had ceased paying for insurance but it was based on the advice of legal counsel that we continue to co-insure until we resolve all of the issues related to the hurricane."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "We still own the property regardless correct?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually it is specific to insuring some of the damaged facilities on the property."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "I just want to make sure I have this straight the airport is still owned by the parish but the Port runs it?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think that isn't exactly right. The transfer transferred the airport and all to the Port."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "That was not my understanding when we did this years ago so I just wanted to get clarification."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Well they did it in 2008 where the parish maintained and then allowed them to run it."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "My understanding was that we had to maintain it in order for them to get the grants because it had to be a public entity."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think it is still a public entity. I know Jeff and the legal counsel worked on that but what was previously done was unacceptable to FAA so they required legal authority actually full authority we couldn't keep it and give them authority over it so all of that was taken care of the only issue was insurance and was related to the damages that were incurred and it was recommended that we both continue to maintain insurance because when the storm hit the transfer had not been completed so we are both protected."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "And in the future we are not going to have anything to do with that even the employees?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "All of that is taken care of the only thing we are paying for is insurance."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Thank you so much just one of those little things that stuck out I know it is minor but it is one of those things that I wanted clarification on. Now I under from legal that a motion needs to be made even though first off I want to tell administration and Vince you all have done a lot of work on this budget. I know a lot of work goes into this budget and the fact that we are here at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour getting this taken care of is kind of like I know everyone worked really hard and I think the fact that we don't have the ability to communicate and get things done has brought us to this point and hopefully next year we will not be going through this again. My prayers are going for communication. Everybody asks me what do you need I say I need communication and they all understand what I mean. We need to be able to talk to each other so we don't have to keep doing this stuff over and over and over again. Our responsibility is to the residents of this parish that is our responsibility everything else is secondary. We were elected by them to take care of them and that is what our goal should always be first and foremost and in light of that I do have to make a couple of motions to this budget. The first motion I am going to make and I am very concerned that I have to continually press on this but on the advice of counsel I am going to do it one more time and hopefully this time the message will be given. I would like to make a motion to amend the parish president's salary to keep the 2013 amount of \$143,398.00 from \$150,780.00 reflecting a 2013 salary with no increase for the year 2014."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Wilson seconded the motion to amend the parish president's salary to keep the 2013 amount of \$143,398.00 from \$150,780.00 reflecting a 2013 salary with no increase for the year 2014. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 against (Gauff) and 2 absent (Wright & Perrilloux).

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Another motion I need to make a motion to amend the budget to create a line item for each position listed in Exhibit "A" that was presented to us this evening that have not already

been line itemed."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Wilson seconded the motion to amend the budget to create a line item for each position listed in Exhibit "A" (presented today) that have not already been line itemed. The motion passed with Councilmen Wright and Perrilloux absent.

Councilwoman Millet stated, "My next motion is to amend the budget to adopt the budget reflected in the 2013 numbers on Exhibit "A" in the previous motion."

Councilman Gauff stated, "Mrs. Millet has said it and I am going to say it also. I think we have spent numerous hours and days and weeks looking at this budget. We didn't take it lightly. We are trying to do the best job we can with the people's money. We are here to manage and to oversee monies and to make sure that we use them wisely. We have given our workers, civil servants, we have given them a raise and said thank you for a job done. Our unclassified and our directors we have hemmed and hawed and gone back and forth and constantly said we are sorry that we can't give you a raise and I guess I feel that it is unfair. So I am going to say it. I feel it is unfair. I know Mr. Snyder asked a lot of questions about the budget and he asked about that fund balance to make sure that the budget itself is in a good secure stable place but I feel like the people that are managing the people that we gave the raise to deserve a raise also. Now I am not saying that they deserve 5% but that was never negotiated but I just feel like we never got the chance to negotiate that and I am here to say that I disagree with the fact that they have worked. We are constantly saying how hard they work. We bring them before the podium every two weeks, now every week to ask them questions about their departments and what we want. They may not run them the way we would run our own departments or if we were the department heads but they are working and moving our parish forward. We are getting a lot of work done. I see the fruits of our labor and I am constantly told that we are doing things and moving things forward and I think this directly reflects on them that they are doing the job that we are asking them to do. Now I do understand that we are trying to be responsible for this budget but I disagree with not rewarding the guys or the people that are managing, supervising, leading or direction our civil service employees."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I just want to have this known as exhibit "A" of the motion."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I hear everything that you have said Mr. Gauff and you have the right to say what you want to say. I have my feelings on those things also. I worked at a company for thirty years and I was a shift supervisor for a chemical plant and I had all of that equipment in my responsibility. I have seen units trip whereas if we didn't make the right decision I was called on to make some of those decisions many things could have happened. We could have lost a lot of money or we could have leveled St. Charles Parish but when the day was over with it was Larry you did a good job and your shift did a good job and I thank you for it and that is how it went down. They paid us well at shift work for holidays and all they paid us well. So that is what I think and I think a bunch of people around this table think the same thing and the people in our community think the same thing. We pay our administration well I think if you compare it to the surrounding

parishes and we even went further out and we pay them well. Now I just believe that if I have to approve a raise and we didn't just jump on this thing this week or this month I have talked to the administration and Mr. Vince on this I wanted to be able to look at some paperwork and I wanted to be able to see how these directors and these managers how they are handling their business and to me that is how you give raises. I don't want to know exactly everything you do but if I ask you a question I want you to be able to answer my question and they have some parishes that do that. They don't want to talk to the parish president. They don't want to talk to the financial person. They want to talk to the person that runs that department because they may have questions pertaining to that department and you use those things to evaluate people with the evaluations that we do as far as giving raises and that is just because it is the end of the year and we don't have anything on our books that we have to give raises to non-classified people. There is something in there about classified and if you want to say they are doing a good job they are doing a great job some of them are that I know of the ones that I know a little bit about their departments but I still believe that they are paid well and are just doing their job. I have gotten letters. I have gotten calls from people in my division saying just that whenever they do something they are doing what we ask them to do and what we pay them to do and when we hired them and approved them in January of 2012 that is what we expect them to do whatever they are doing and that is my feeling on all of this."

Councilman Madere stated, "I think I made myself perfectly clear on this issue one time before and just like in the position that I am in as a councilman in this district. When I ran for office I was not aware of what the salary was but it wouldn't have made a difference because whatever the salary is in the position that you are in no job that I know of or that I ever worked on guaranteed me a raise every year no matter how much I worked and being a school teacher I understand that you are expected to do certain things regardless of an increase or not and no increased was ever promised to me or granted to me any other time other than by the school board or the state and regardless if I got a raise or not I had to go out and perform my job and I would expect that these individuals will do the same thing because you are professionals and money is not a factor in if you perform or not and if you feel as though you have to make a certain amount of money to do your job then most of the time people move on and try to find other employment that pays more. So I think there is no such thing as you are guaranteed every year. I think what Mr. Snyder and the rest of this council is trying to do is to get this under control and not let it get out of control. We are not saying you are never going to get a raise it is just not happening this year and I think we have to come to that understanding. It is not going to happen this year according to this and I understood that for thirty-seven years as a school teacher. It is not going to happen every year but you are still expected to do what you have to do and with the professional people that we have here I think they will do the same thing and work hard. So I never did use my salary as to if I was dedicated or not as an employee."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Just for clarification there has never been a question of if this group would work if there is a pay increase or not because I think they have demonstrated based on their time here that they do a job as professionals but they expected to be treated as professionals. About a month ago and you are right Mrs. Millet it took

another motion because the steps previously taken by the council to freeze salaries were inappropriate and it required a motion to the budget. The budget that was presented according to the charter was presented and verified by our CPA who is here and wrote you all a letter in the manner required and that was to present the president proposed budget which is what was presented and as your option you had the option to amend that budget. A month ago I suggested if you did not want to increase my salary freeze it, I gave you the language but you chose to wait until this meeting that is your choice it still goes through with the budget but please let me be clear. Me and my staff will continue to work for the people of this parish and it is dependent on the council's actions tonight what is unclear and we will continue to have legal pursue it is who determines the salaries. It is clear by charter that the council sets the parish president's salary and that you have chosen to do and I have told you publicly, privately and in writing that I am fine with that, but that action does not determine the amount of work and effort that I will continue to put out for this parish. With regards to the rest of the staff there is some question as to who sets their salaries and what I would like the public to know is that the time taken on this budget as you can see the only discussion is regarding unclassified employees and I think there is a lot of very good work and a lot of time that went into the budget. A budget that is sound. A budget that continues to be sound that actually takes care of the needs of the parish whereas the focus has been solely on penalizing the people who have worked here. So please Mr. Madere is you think that our staff will not work or won't continue to work because of the actions or the continued actions or attempted actions taken today rest at ease to the council and the rest of the parish we are committed to our jobs. We are professionals and we will continue to do professional jobs. So again move forward we are looking forward to continuing and with regards to communication that continues to be thrown around we have offered and we work until night so if you all work during the day and would like to come and meet with us in the afternoon to discuss and ask questions about the very things that are under discussion now we welcome it. We send things repeatedly that are said not to have been received but we also attach to the information an availability to please sit with us so if there is a communication problem it is not on our end. Now the issue with open meetings I suggest that you all get clarity on that. We will meet with you individually if 2-3 can't come but we have never avoided communications. A lack of communication works two ways but we remain available. We respond to your emails and we are here to set up meetings throughout the day and as far as nighttime for those of you who work if you need to come in the evenings. So if communication is a problem I strongly recommend you come in and sit with us and you can get answers to the questions that you have and give us the time necessary to research the questions rather than throwing things at us at a public meeting when we could have provided you with an answer in advance. So again to the public we are committed to our jobs. This attempted action will not hinder what we have done or what we plan to do and will continue to serve."

Councilman Madere stated, "Let me clarify what I said, I did not say that they would not I said that the professional that they are I know that they would and that is what is expected of everyone from the community. They expect us to perform as professionals. I did not indicate that because they are not getting a raise that they would not perform their jobs. I said as professionals I knew they would and that

*is different than the comment that you said. I definitely know that they would perform and do their work and that is exactly what I said."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to amend the budget to adopt the budget reflecting the 2013 numbers on Exhibit "A" in the previous motion. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 1 against (Gauff), 1 abstaining (Hotard) and 2 absent (Wright & Perrilloux).

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"I have another motion in order to confirm the items that we just passed to amend the budget to reduce the line items that were included in the salaries identified in exhibit "A"."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to amend the budget to reduce the line items that were included in the salaries identified in Exhibit "A". The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 against (Gauff) and 2 absent (Wright & Perrilloux).

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"Unless there is any more discussion to be had I make a motion that we accept the budget presented by administration with the amendments that have been added."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to accept the budget presented by administration Ordinance 13-48 with the amendments that have been requested. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 against (Gauff) and 2 absent (Wright & Perrilloux).

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

Parish Buildings - Security

Abandoned Vehicles

Code Enforcement - Personnel matters

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

St. John the Baptist Parish vs. Roussel Welding and Metal Works, Inc., et al. Case No. 64187 Div. B

Any and all pending legal matters

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

There were no ordinances to be introduced at this meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS**

Councilman Gauff stated, *"I would like to congratulate RA they won the Holy Cross tournament great job guys good team effort they came out*

*first out of about sixteen teams and I would also like to say Happy New Year to everyone please make 2014 a safe and better new year."*

*Councilwoman Millet stated, "I wanted to say Happy New Year to everyone. I hope everyone's holiday was wonderful mine was thanks for all the cards and calls and I would just like to say one last thing that I have been on the council for a number of years and had we have not had items put into the budget that we specifically requested not be put in we would not have had all this length of discussion and hopefully next year things will be much smoother sailing with the parish council and administration that is my wish for the new year. How could I forget go Saint's this weekend."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "Happy New Year to everyone and a Happy Birthday to my granddaughter, my daughters Justice and Michelle."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "I would like to echo everything Happy New Years and congratulations to RA and their victory."*

*Councilman Wilson stated, "Happy New Year please have a safe one and God Bless everyone's family."*

*Councilman Smith stated, "Happy New Year to everyone and God Bless and have a safe and happy holiday."*

*Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would also like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and congratulations to RA I believe they are actually playing this weekend so well wishes to them as well."*

**ADJOURNMENT :**

At 2:01 PM, Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilmen Wright and Perrilloux absent.

/s/Jaclyn Hotard  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary