

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 2010
CHAIR RONNIE SMITH
VICE CHAIR CHERYL MILLET

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, February 23rd, 2010, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Haston Lewis, Councilman District I, Darnel Usry, Councilwoman District V, Danny Millet, Councilman District II, Dale Wolfe, Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Charles Julien, Councilman District III, Ronnie Smith, Councilman District VI, Cheryl Millet, Councilwoman District VII

ABSENT: Jaclyn Hotard & Steve Lee

Councilwoman Usry led the Prayer. Lexus Smith led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Kerry Brown and Jeff Perilloux were present.

Ronnie Smith – Recognition – (Carry Over) Lake Pontchartrain district champs Boys & Girls basketball – middle school

Councilman Smith presented certificates to the Lake Pontchartrain Boys & Girls basketball district champs – middle school. He commented on how well the children played in their championship games and how proud the council and the community are of their accomplishments.

Captain Mike Hoover – Presentation – Young Marines Program

Buddy Boe, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, stated, *"Two months ago members of the Sheriff's Department approached the administration to assist them in starting the Young Marines Program in St. John Parish. We have brought tonight Captain Mike Hoover with the Sheriff's Department to let you guys know what the program is and what they will be doing in the coming months."*

Captain Mike Hoover stated, *"Sheriff Jones has never taken lightly the responsibility of protecting and serving the people of St. John Parish. Also with that we all understand that we have a responsibility to train the future leaders of our community because in reality at some point, maybe date of birth or whatever it may be, we must all step aside and let somebody follow in our footsteps and lead. The question is do they know how to lead? So the Sheriff has decided to start a program. It is a national program. It is a chapter of the Young Marines Program. I know when I say the term Marine many people get a little concerned. I see the eyes rolling in the back of the head. It is not about weapons retention. It is not about hand to hand combat. The Young Marines do not train soldiers. They train leaders. So how do we do that? We focus our trainings and teachings on things that are required from a good leader. That of being a person of integrity, honesty, respectful,*

disciplined, physically fit, a team player that all work together for the benefit of others, a person of good character, good citizenship by volunteering in your community, being drug and gang free, it all comes down to being a leader. Our first recruit class was 11 to 14 year olds and is scheduled to start the weekend of March 20th. They meet ten hours every other weekend. Their graduation, which will be in May, when they graduate they will actually name the title of a young marine. They can gain rank structure. They can go to leadership conferences and they can take their place in this community as citizens. By the way we invite you to their graduation in May. This program will be run under the Public Relations Department of the Sheriff's Office of which I am the Commander. The actual commander of the Young Marine's Program is Sgt. Brian Bertrand, who is here with me this evening, is a former marine and also a K-9 Officer for the St. John Sheriff's Office. Two months ago, as Buddy said, we needed a place to put a trailer. A place where we had enough room to work with these kids, physical fitness and all the other programs we have established and the parish has allowed us to use a parcel of land near Regala Park which we are very thankful for. We just wanted to come here tonight to make you aware of what this program is about. Again we are starting with 11 to 14 year olds. We already have our first recruit class. In the future that age can range from 10 to 18 years old. Do you have any other questions possibly that you can think of at this time?"

Councilwoman Usry asked, "How many will you have in each class?"

Cpt. Hoover stated, "Right now we are starting with a small group of about twenty."

Councilwoman Usry asked, "And is it male/female?"

Cpt. Hoover stated, "It is for males, females, blacks, whites, Spanish, anything. The whole point is to bring people from different cultures and backgrounds and bring them together to be a team."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "How do they sign up?"

Cpt. Hoover stated, "You can contact the St. John Sheriff's Office Community Relations division and we are starting to accept applications for the next training."

Councilman Millet asked, "What does it cost?"

Cpt. Hoover stated, "Good question. The Sheriff's Office and the Government actually take the cost of almost everything they need. The only thing we do not cover is the \$20.00 that the parents pay per child to cover their insurance for one year. Everything else is covered by the Sheriff's Office and the Young Marine's Program."

Councilman Julien asked, "How long have you all been recruiting and where do the recruits come from?"

Cpt. Hoover stated, "We actually started going into the school systems and met with some of the principals just to put the feelers out to see how many people would be interested. I believe initially we took in 85 applications to find the interest in the program."

Councilman Julien asked, "Is there a criteria that you use to recruit the kids?"

Cpt. Hoover stated, "Right now it is basically between the ages of 11 and 14. They cannot have a criminal background. It is a volunteer program. So parents cannot force their child to participate. They have to want to be there. Beyond that we are taking kids from all parts of the community again to bring them together as a team to work together."

Councilman Smith asked, "Any of the kids that are not in your first class, did the \$20.00 for the insurance stop any of those kids?"

Cpt. Hoover stated, "We will make sure that that will never happen."

Councilman Smith stated, "The reason I am asking is because as long as I am on the council, if you have that problem, just come to us and let us know. I am not going to let that happen."

Cpt. Hoover stated, "I definitely will Sir. Thank you."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "How long is the program? I heard you say that you are starting in March and it will end in May."

Cpt. Hoover stated, "It is every other weekend. Ten hours a weekend. That is the recruit training. Notice the term recruit training not basic training or boot camp. It is recruit training, leadership skills. Once they complete that in May they will earn the title of Young Marine and we will meet once a weekend per unit. We will set up units and they will meet on weekends once a month to do community activities and more training. So right now this group will graduate in May with the title but the program continues on for them."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I have a comment. Thank you all for doing this because I know it has taken some of your valuable time and I think it is something that our youth needs. A place to go and something to do, leadership is something we need for our future youths to understand that without leadership we can't go anywhere."

Cpt. Hoover stated, "Thank you and we appreciate your support. Again to show these kids what they mean to us we will let you know when that graduation will take place. Please make every effort to attend for them."

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes February 9th, 2010, Regular Meeting

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes February 9th, 2010, Regular Meeting. The motion passed with 7 yeas and 2 absent (Hotard & Lee).

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

10-04 An ordinance to re-zone the Old Wallace School Lot Area 1 from R-1 to C-1 and Area 2 from R-1 to C-1, Wallace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZ-09-005) (P. McTopy)

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Wolfe seconded the motion to table Ordinance 10-04. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 2 absent (Hotard & Lee) and 1 abstaining (Lewis).

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

10-05 An ordinance amending Ordinance 09-36 relative to the Annual Operating Budgets for the St. John the Baptist Parish Public Works Fund, Sales Tax District and LaPlace Volunteer Fire Department for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010. (P. McTopy)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Julien stated, *"At 6:00 PM this evening the finance committee met. I would ask that we get a motion by my fellow council members to endorse such actions taken."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to take the bids for 2010 Pump Supplies, approved to take the bids for the drainage excavation of Parish ditches annual contract, approved to grant administration authorization to sign change order #1 for the 440k ground storage tank, approved grant substantial completion and final acceptance of 440k ground storage tank, approved to authorize administration to enter into an agreement with Shread Kurkendall for engineering services in connection with the Homewood and Central Avenue area drainage project as part of the 2009 Bond Issue, approved to grant administration authorization to go out for bids for the installation and housing of generators, approved to grant administration authorization to sign a task order with URS for application and permitting services in connection with the Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund funded by the ARRA (Stimulus) Act, and approved to grant administration authorization to solicit for RFP's for Smoke Testing, CCTV and manhole inspection services in connection with the 2009 Sewer Bond. The motion passed with 7 yeas and 2 absent (Hotard & Lee).

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

There were no personnel matters at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

Cheryl Millet - Belle Terre interchange lighting project update

Councilwoman Millet asked, *"Can I please get an update on this project? I was told ground breaking would be in January. We are almost into March and I haven't seen any breaking yet."*

Buddy Boe stated, *"When this item was placed on the agenda we contacted the Regional Planning Commission who was assisting the parish in finding the gap to pay for the project. As you may remember last year*

the parish received \$350,000.00 from the state for the lighting project. That was only half the estimated construction cost. The parish allocated \$215,000.00, with your approval, in the 2010 budget and the Regional Planning Commission in the fall began the process of including the remaining balance in their budget for 2010. So that was completed in January and the state is expected to bid the project out in the next thirty days."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "You will keep me abreast of this project, will you not?"

Buddy Boe stated, "Absolutely."

Charles Julien – Update on Reserve Drainage

Councilman Julien stated, "I would ask that administration come and give us an update on the project going on or that we are preparing to do in the Reserve area to alleviate the flooding of that particular area."

Buddy Boe stated, "In house the parish has been cleaning several ditches throughout the Reserve area, small and medium sized ditches. We have also requested the Department of Transportation to blow out the culverts underneath Airline Highway. So we expect that to happen soon. On a long term basis, several months ago the council approved the drainage project in the St. Peter's area, which is roughly about 35% designed. The survey is being completed as we speak. The design will finish and we expect that construction project to be let in sometime late spring. The Homewood and Central Avenue drainage project was approved tonight by the council. That is a 1.3 million dollar project that includes installing an additional pumping station at the Reserve Canal, increasing the retention area in front of those two pumps, adding a pumping station on the Trosclair Canal so that we can take the water from the Central Avenue area and move it north towards Lake Maurepas. Also a jack and bore of a very large culvert underneath Airline Highway to get more water out of the Homewood area to the pump and into the Reserve Relief Canal heading north to Lake Maurepas."

Councilman Julien asked, "So how much money are we spending on the project itself and how much are we spending on engineering cost?"

Buddy Boe stated, "The entire project cost was 1.3 million that included permitting, surveying, engineering and the actual construction. The actual construction cost is \$965,000.00. That is the estimate. The remaining balance is a contingency, resident inspection, surveying, permitting, geo-tech and the engineering fees to a total of 1.3 million dollars. All of which will be paid for out of the 2009 Bond Issue."

Councilman Julien asked, "So you said we are spending \$900,000.00 on the engineering. How much are we spending on the people who are going out and getting the work done?"

Buddy Boe stated, "Roughly \$150,000.00, which is in accordance with the adopted ordinance by the parish council for the engineering fees and the resident inspection."

NEW BUSINESS:

Pat McTopy – Resolution – R10-12 – A Resolution authorizing the submission of one or more applications under the 2010 Louisiana Safe Routes to School Program

Pat McTopy, Acting Parish President, stated, "Administration has been working with representatives from the W. 5th Street area in LaPlace and South Central Planning in an effort to apply for some safe routes to school funding, which could be used to provide as it says safe routes to schools particularly revitalizing the sidewalks in that area. We would like the council's support in adopting a resolution supporting the grant application. We have here tonight representatives of the area and South Central Planning."

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to approve Resolution R10-12. A Resolution authorizing the submission of one or more applications under the 2010 Louisiana Safe Routes to School Program. **WHEREAS**, the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program was established in August 2005 as part of the federal transportation legislation known as SAFETEA-LU; and **WHEREAS**, the purposes of the program, as stated in the legislation, shall be to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school; to make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and to facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools; and **WHEREAS**, the Louisiana Safe Routes to School Program allows for grants to provide construction and or repair of sidewalks, school crossing signage, curb cuts and other safety improvements in connection with schools housing grades K through 8, in amounts up to \$250,000 with no local match requirement; and **WHEREAS**, St. John the Baptist Council desires to apply for a 2010 Louisiana Safe Routes to School Program to provide sidewalk and safety improvements along La. Hwy. 44 in the vicinity of two parish schools, John L. Ory Magnet, Emily c. Watkins and St. Joan of Arc Schools. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, convened in regular session on February 23rd, 2010, that this council does support the submission of one or more Louisiana Safe Routes to School grant applications for safety improvements in connection with Kindergarten through 8th grade schools. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that should the project be funded St. John the Baptist Parish will be the sponsor for managing and maintaining the safety improvements. The motion passed with 7 yeas and 2 absent (Hotard & Lee).

Pat McTopy – Authorization to sign CEA with DOTD for the extension of Woodland Drive relative to the 2008 State appropriations

Pat McTopy stated, "This has to do with a grant award the parish has received from the state to design some road improvements along Woodland Drive connecting essentially Woodland Drive to the Vicknair Canal area. As you recall the council had awarded URS the contract to do the work. It is taking a little longer than anticipated. We have a simple two page agreement extending the term between the parish and the state to complete the work. No cost."

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to sign CEA with DOTD for the extension of Woodland Drive relative to the 2008 State appropriations. The motion passed with 7 yeas and 2 absent (Hotard & Lee).

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Julien stated, "I want to remind the voters that we are having a special election on March 27th. I want to encourage everyone to go out to vote."

Councilwoman Usry stated, "The St. John Animal Shelter will be hosting a special adoption day from 1:00 PM until 3:00 PM on the last Saturday of each month. Refreshments will be served. You will receive a 15% discount on micro-chipping for all animals. This begins this Saturday, February 27th. Again the last Saturday of each month from 1:00 until 3:00 PM. Thank you."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just have a comment to make. There have been a lot of door to door salesmen trying to sell some magazines in the area. I just want to remind people that they should be permitted to do this. Ask them for their permit. If they are there after dark just call 911. They are not licensed to be there. So I just want you to be aware and be observant of what is going on in your area."

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

There were no presidential remarks.

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

Property/Casualty Insurance Agent - 1) Claims, any/all property, casualty, and Workman comp claims 2) Claims, procedures and disposition 3) Coverages, any/all material changes

Any and all pending legal matters

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:00 PM, Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with 7 yeas and 2 absent (Hotard & Lee).

/s/Ronnie Smith
COUNCIL CHAIR

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary