

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 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, March 23rd, 2010, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: None

Councilwoman Hotard led the Prayer. Ms. Lexus Smith led the Pledge.

Legal Counsels Barry Landry, Jeff Perilloux and Kerry Brown were present.

Ronnie Smith – Proclamation – (Carry Over) Coach Yussef Jasmine – Inducted into the Loyola Basketball Hall of Fame

Councilman Smith stated, *"Whereas, it is an honor and privilege to give special recognition to Coach Yussef Jasmine for his outstanding accomplishments and Induction into the Loyola Basketball Hall of Fame; and, Whereas, participation in organized athletics helps to build character and teaches a wholesome sense of fair play and good sportsmanship; and, Whereas, Yussef Jasmine have demonstrated, in addition to a great deal of natural ability, an outstanding spirit of dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work; and, Whereas, a striking example of this has been brought to our attention in the achievement of Yussef Jasmine, a graduate of Archbishop Shaw High School and one of the most outstanding players making Loyola University's return to athletics successful, competing at Division 1 of the NAIA; playing all four positions as a Freshman, was the third leading scorer and second in rebounding. In his junior year, he again led the team both in scoring and rebounding and was named to the All GCAC team. His career scoring record 1,418 points, places him forth in all-time Wolfpack Basketball Records; and, Whereas, his continuing efforts to assist in any possible way in providing opportunities for our young people deserves our full commendation and support; Now, therefore Pat McTopy, acting parish president in conjunction with St. John the Baptist Parish Council Members do hereby extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes for continued success. Coach Jasmine it is an honor. Most people know that you coach at the high school at East St. John and you brought me on to help and assist you. I would like to take this time to present you with this proclamation on behalf of the Parish President and the St. John the Baptist Parish Council and it is an honor for me to be*

able to do so. Congratulations Sir."

Yussef Jasmine, stated, "I was just speaking to my dad and telling him how before all of these events I remember being inducted into the hall of fame. I was sitting down and I was nervous. It is similar to game night. Right before the game I was always nervous but it is good to not be the only one in the room. I used to watch Coach Charles and he would get nervous before the games as well. So I feel honored to be here. This is such an honor. While playing ball at Loyola I had no idea that this day would be happening right now at this very moment. However I feel like just as I give thanks to God for being inducted into the hall of fame, I believe that it is favor that put Coach Ronnie and Coach Charles on the board in the very moment of me being honored with a proclamation from the parish right now. To be honest with you guys I had no idea that this day would ever happen. I know that as I go out and coach every game I always feel like I am being watched. I always feel like the kids are watching me. When I played ball I always felt like kids were watching me, adults were watching me, parents were watching me so I feel like this proclamation is a responsibility to me that I am willing to live up to. So I greatly appreciate receiving this honor today. Thank you."

Councilman Julien stated, "My coach as you see him standing there a debonair young man. I am proud of you. I am proud to have had an opportunity to work with you. He is courageous. Coach went through cancer this year. Coach is a very courageous young man. He is a noble person. He is the type of person that we need to have in St. John the Baptist Parish. I just want to let you know Coach when I was sitting up there every time I come to a game I just want you to know that I am proud. I am proud to say that I worked with you. I am a little jealous of how good you look sometimes but I am going to get through that. I just want you to know I love you."

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes March 9th, 2010, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval – FCA Run for the Son – 03/27/10 – 8:00 AM; Permit Approval – AOL – Bike-a-thon – 03/28/10 – 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM; Permit Approval – St. Hubert Catholic Church – Annual Festival – April 16, 17, & 18, 2010; Re-appointment of Cindi Clark & Helen Banquer to the River Parishes Transit Authority

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes March 9th, 2010, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval – FCA Run for the Son – 03/27/10 – 8:00 AM; Permit Approval – AOL – Bike-a-thon – 03/28/10 – 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM; Permit Approval – St. Hubert Catholic Church – Annual Festival – April 16, 17, & 18, 2010; Re-appointment of Cindi Clark & Helen Banquer to the River Parishes Transit Authority. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

10-04 (Tabled 03-09-10)(Public Hearing Held)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)

Councilman Lewis stated, *"I would like to leave this item tabled at this time."*

10-06 An ordinance adopting and enacting a new code for St. John the Baptist, Louisiana; providing for the repeal of certain ordinances not included therein; providing a penalty for the violation thereof; providing for the manner of amending such code; and providing when such code and this ordinance shall become effective. (P. McTopy)

Buddy Boe, Acting CAO, stated, *"Administration requests that this ordinance be tabled until the next meeting. In the next two weeks the administration will be hosting work shops with the council to review the changes that are proposed in this ordinance."*

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to table Ordinance 10-06. The motion passed unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

10-07 An ordinance amending Ordinance 09-33 relative to 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 fiscal year beginning January 1, 2009 and ending December 31, 2009. (P. McTopy)

10-08 An ordinance granting approval of the revocation of that portion of the right-of-way of Evangeline Court of Chateau Acadiene Subdivision located at the dead end of Evangeline Court, situated in Sections 21, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana; all as shown on a plat prepared by Stephen P. Flynn, PLS, dated March 20, 2010, attached hereto; whereby that portion of the right-of-way of Cardinal Street is no longer needed for a public purpose. (P. McTopy)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to award the Property, Casualty & General Liability Insurance coverage to Republic Insurance with Riverlands Insurance Services as the Agent of Record, approved to accept the bid from John S. Noble, LLC for Duck's Ice House Equipment, approved administration's recommendation awarding those low bidders of Thomas Pump would have four items, Pentair has eight items, Johnson Equipment Company had twenty-nine items, Allen J. Harris had three items and Delta Process had sixteen items, approved to table the award for the generator installation and housing, approved to take the bids for the Lions Water Plant Phase VII project under advisement, and approved to take the three proposals for smoke testing & CCTV of sewer lines and man hole inspection under advisement. The motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

There were no personnel matters at this time.

Ronnie Smith - Blue Tarps

Councilman Smith stated, *"At this time, the reason I put this item on the agenda, I ride through St. John Parish and I notice all these blue tarps still on houses. Partial blue tarps still on houses, which is telling me that people are just not able to afford to replace their roofs and get those things fixed. So I contacted Ms. Joseph and we are going to see what we can do about assisting those people."*

Elois Joseph, Director of Health & Human Services, stated, *"The department of Health and Human Services is a recipient of a LRA grant, recovery grant. It is pending right now. We should start in May. We have to advertise two weeks before we start anything. So there is a possibility that we might be able to help these people with their roofs. I haven't gotten all the guidelines and rules and regulations. As soon as I get them I will bring them to the council and discuss them with you all."*

Councilman Smith stated, *"Thank you and at that time the council will make sure that the administration will make sure that everything is advertised so that we can assist those people in getting their roofs fixed."*

Julia Remondet - Authorization to sign a joint use agreement with DOTD for the West Bank Farmer's Market

Julie Remondet, Director of EDC, stated, *"Actually this is authorization to move forward with preparing the necessary documents to supply to DOTD for the joint use agreement. There are some surveys that need to be done, some drawings. We need to make sure that everything meets the DOTD requirements as well as our planning and zoning. So we would like that authorization to move forward with this."*

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Wolfe seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to sign a joint use agreement with DOTD for the West Bank Farmer's Market. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pat McTopy - Resolution - R10-16 - A Resolution in support of a grant pre-application by Bayou Land Resource, Conservation & Development Council with the Delta Regional Authority

Buddy Boe, stated, *"The Bayou Land Development Council approached the administration several weeks ago and asked for our support of a joint*

application to the Delta Regional Authority for a two hundred thousand dollar grant that would fund a seafood/farmer's market in the bayou region and one in St. John the Baptist Parish. So this approval for this resolution will be to allow the grant to move forward to fund an East Bank seafood/farmer's market and the previous item you guys approved was the West Bank farmer's market. So we are having them both at the same time."

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Wolfe seconded the motion to approve Resolution R10-16. A resolution in support of a grant pre-application by Bayou Land Resource, Conservation & Development Council with the Delta Regional Authority. **WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) is to assist units of local governments with funding for basic public infrastructure in distressed counties, transportation infrastructure for the purpose of facilitating economic development, business development with an emphasis on entrepreneurship and job training with an emphasis on using existing public education institutions; and **WHEREAS**, Delta Regional Authority works closely with local development district, which provide technical assistance to grant applicants and in our region, that local development district is South Central Planning & Development Commission; and **WHEREAS**, the Bayou Land Resource, Conservation & Development Council, Inc. (Bayou Land RC&D) is a non-profit organization that addresses the social, environmental and economical concerns with its primary focus on the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources in Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist and Terrebonne Parishes; and **WHEREAS**, per the guidelines and eligibility of projects which meet the Delta Regional Authority program, Bayou Land RC&D has identified its Bayou Land Seafood and Farmers Market project which consists of equipment/coolers for two (2) farmers/seafood markets, one of which would be the Central Market location in Raceland at the Highway 90/Highway 1 interchange next to the Lafourche Parish Tourist Commission Office and the other in St. John the Baptist Parish as a possible project for this funding opportunity; and **WHEREAS**, Bayou Land RC&D, through South Central Planning & Development Commission, will be submitting a grant pre-application to the Delta Regional Authority for funding of its Bayou Land Seafood and Farmers Market project; and **WHEREAS**, the grant guidelines have a deadline to submit pre-applications in March 2010 and the guidelines require a resolution from the local governing authority to be submitted with the pre-application forms; and **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, convened in regular session on March 23, 2010, does hereby support the grant application of the Bayou Land RC&D with the Delta Regional Authority for its Bayou Land Seafood and Farmers Market project. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Wolfe stated, *"I would like to put the council and the public on notice of my intent to overturn the Planning and Zoning's decision and grant a trailer placement at the next council meeting to Ms. Deatrice Gauff, Lot 52 Little Hope Street, Garyville, LA."*

Councilman Lewis stated, *"I want to tell everybody not to forget to go and vote on Saturday for Parish President."*

Councilman Millet asked, "I have two things. I know hurricane season is coming up soon. I was just wondering what was going on with the Hope Canal as far as cleaning it out?"

Buddy Boe stated, "The permit for the Hope Canal dredging and cleaning is in the final phase at the Department of Natural Resources. We have been told for about two weeks that it is coming in a week. So we expect it any day now and public works is ready to start cleaning that canal out as soon as we receive that permit."

Councilman Millet asked, "Public works is going to clean it out? Are we going to have an excavator or something going through it?"

Buddy Boe stated, "At that time we will make the decision on if we need to secure the rental of a marsh buggy or if public works can handle it. The reason for Hope Canal taking a little longer than the other canals is because the Hope Canal is what the Corp or DNR considers a navigatable canal and therefore it goes through extra approval processes."

Councilman Millet asked, "One more question. How about the Reserve Boat Launch? What is the status on that?"

Buddy Boe stated, "The Reserve Boat Launch should be going out for re-bid in the next week or two. We were waiting on the state. If you remember we had to redo the documents to meet state guidelines. We received that approval from the state in the past ten days and the engineer or architect is preparing to re-bid that project out."

Councilman Julien stated, "I would also like to remind the people of St. John the Baptist Parish that we do have an election going on. I want to urge everyone to go out and vote. This is a very important election for our parish. I want to urge everyone to go out and work hard. I also see three of our commissioners from the Housing Board. I would ask that you all stand just to be recognized in case people don't know you. Thank you."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "At our last meeting I reminded everyone that the census reports were coming in the mail. They have been received. Please complete them. It is for the betterment of the parish and the state of Louisiana to complete them. It is ten simple questions on each person living in the household. You don't have to wait until April 1st to mail them. Fill them out when you get them and mail them and go. I also want to remind everybody that the Rotary Club is doing their 'Pups in the Park' this weekend at the Hwy. 51 Park from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM bring your pups or your dogs out and have some fun. It is a day for the dogs."

Councilman Smith stated, "I do have a couple of items. I was just advised by the parish counsel that the permit for the ferry has been issued to Entergy. The permit that Entergy needed to place their pole so Entergy has been contacted and they are waiting on their work crew. So it is in Entergy's hands now to get the electricity up there that we need to get this ferry moving. Secondly don't forget about 'Easter in the Park' and all of our parks around the parish. I think it is in six parks. It will be April 3rd from 11:00 AM on. So parents bring your children out ages 2-12 and let them enjoy themselves. Mr. Boe quick

question and if not you maybe Paul can answer this. We went up and secured a location to evacuate our residents during hurricane season if we have to. I know we secured one location. We were supposed to go and check a second location but we never got up there. Has that been taken care of?"

Paul Oncale stated, "Yes. We are tentatively going up there April 8th. It is just tentative. In the mean time we are still working on MOU's and that will be signed and so forth."

Councilman Smith stated, "Thank you. I just wanted to make sure, like Mr. Millet said, hurricane season is around the corner and I want to be ahead of the curve."

Paul Oncale stated, "No. The ball has not been dropped."

Councilman Smith stated, "I appreciate that and again I have to thank you and your department for doing such a great job of getting that taken care of. Thank you."

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

There were no presidential remarks.

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Cable Franchise Agreement

Housing Authority Board appointments

Charles Julien - Shread Kuyrkendall Contract

Any and all pending legal matters

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

There was no action taken as a result of executive session.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:25 PM, Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

/s/Ronnie Smith
COUNCIL CHAIR

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary

