

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 26TH, 2013
CHAIR JACLYN HOTARD
VICE CHAIR LENNIX MADERE

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 26th, 2013, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: None

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

Legal Counsel Billy O'Regan, Jeff Perilloux and Vercell Fiffie were present.

Natalie Robottom - Presentation - (Carry Over 3-12-13) Cullen Curole, South Central Planning Loan Program

Mr. Cullen Curole was present and briefly explained the opportunities for people and businesses in the St. John area through the South Central Planning Loan Program.

Cheryl Millet - "Pups in the Park"

Councilwoman Millet commented on the "Pups in the Park" that will be taking place on Saturday, April 6th 2013 beginning at 11:00 AM.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - April Child Abuse Awareness Month

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for April being Child Abuse Awareness Month.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - April Keep St. John Beautiful Month

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for April being Keep St. John Beautiful Month.

Natalie Robottom - Presentation - Sheila Butler of Entergy

Mrs. Butler was presented with a gift from the council and the administration on her retirement from Entergy. She was thanked by all for her hard work and dedication to the parish.

Jaclyn Hotard - Presentation - Kathy Graf - Flood Insurance Rates

Kathy Graf wasn't present for the meeting.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes March 12th, 2013, Regular Meeting

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes March 12th, 2013, Regular Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

13-05 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval for the Parish President to purchase immovable property by Act of Sale, a copy of which is attached hereto, from LAPLACE INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES, LLC, bearing municipal address, 425 Captain Bourgeois Street, LaPlace, Louisiana, for and in consideration of the amount of \$214,770.68 and to execute the Act of Sale and all other documents necessary for the Parish of St. John the Baptist to acquire title to the property. (N. Robottom)

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-05. The motion passed unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

13-06 An ordinance amending Ordinance 12-49 relative to the annual operating budgets for the St. John Parish General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds and Parishwide Sewerage Construction Fund for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2012. (N. Robottom)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"At this time I would like to ask that the council accept the recommendation of the finance committee."*

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Personnel Matters - Planning & Zoning Regulator

The above item was taken up in Executive Session.

Lennix Madere - Abandoned houses

Councilman Madere stated, *"I read Tom Daley's report and the procedure that we need to go through and I still don't understand what is the ending process we still haven't spoken to the assessor I think the assessor is probably one of the end results. Have we made contact and straightened it out with them as far as abandoned houses because it*

seems as though and I don't want this to happen in the LaPlace area but in my district we have houses that have been abandoned for over 10 years so we undoubtedly went through that process. So what are the end results? When do we say we take it down or we do something with it or do we just keep repeating the process year after year? What is the end result they have to have an ending result to abandoned houses? Who has the answer?"

Councilman Gauff stated, "We would have to have a budget to get rid of blighted properties or have the adjudicated properties that have been sitting there and I am not sure what it is either."

Councilman Madere stated, "That is why I am asking I want to know who has the answers? What is the ending process? Like I said we're just starting the process on the house on 30th St. all over again. We don't want to just keep going around and around. We need to have an ending result to abandoned homes. What is the end?"

Angelic Sutherland, P & Z Director, stated, "I think I understand what your issue is but in reading the District Attorney's memo on abandoned houses, it didn't say abandoned houses, the item on the agenda has been abandoned houses and I think I have stated once before there is no such thing in our code as an abandoned house. When Tom Daley wrote his memo he was referring to those vacant properties, the ones that people have not returned to since Hurricane Isaac that were damaged and maybe have not been gutted. I think that memo was specifically addressing that and the fact that we could use our hazardous unsafe codes to address dealing with those properties."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay well still there is no ending result to that process. I think the ending result is that we have to get the assessor involved. If we don't get the assessor involved in it then we are just completely rotating over and over again with sending out notices for the next 10 to 15 years. I want to know what are the ending results?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "I guess just to make sure I am clear what role do you see the assessor having in this?"

Councilman Madere stated, "I thought it was a possibility that the assessor was supposed to pay or place a lien after so many years that is applied the assessor can apply it to the property tax right?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "We met and I thought that was also part of district attorney's memo that he sent that for those properties that we have grass and demo liens or boarded securely that those could be placed on the assessor's tax roll."

Councilman Madere stated, "That has been on the record but if the assessor is not taking part..."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "We have met with the assessor."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well that is the question that I asked has the agreement been made for that to happen?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "We met actually the District Attorney,

administration, the Sheriff's Office and the Assessor's Office met to discuss this and the Assessor's Office was given the additional time to research on their own to discuss process and procedures with I believe the assessor's association and they were going to get back with us with their final input and that is what we are waiting on right now."

Councilman Madere asked, "Okay so do you have a time table as to when that might happen?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Excuse me the reason that all the entities were at the table is because it involved the program, the assessor has a program and again making sure that all the programs talk to each other I think the Sheriff's Office and the Assessor use the same program so they were going back to look at a process for not necessarily putting liens on properties that might have been paid or making sure that it is flagged when it should've been so the time line was set I think for the summer but prior to any implementation there would have to be an educational component and before we could do that we had to make sure that the assessor and the sheriff's office as the person who is responsible for placing it on the rolls and then the sheriff actually collects the funds or fines trying to make sure that their systems are talking so that we don't have any missteps. The other thing was that we start letting people know and as soon as the assessor's office met with other assessor's they would get back with us and they have not but we did have a meeting with all involved to go through the process and the law and the memo that all of you had received."

Councilman Madere stated, "I think that is a good process and that we have finally come to somewhere in this parish because this has been for years and we have finally come to a way that we can collect monies owed to this parish and also get rid of homes that have been abandoned or unsafe houses as you want to call them. I think it has been years of neglect that we are finally getting to a point that we can actually, you know we always say clean up St. John Parish, that would help out a lot to clean up some of the neighborhoods and the problems that we have so it is about time that we come to an end or a point where these homes that are falling down and have a roof completely missing off of it or a side gone or don't even have a floor and these types of places are removed from St. John the Baptist Parish."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I got a call today from a resident that the home next to her is vacant and has been vacant since before the storm and now there is a rodent problem in the house which is going into her house. Is there a procedure or people that we can call to help them with this?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually the letter that Tom sent kind of set that up but in one of our FEMA meetings going through that process the attempt is to get permission from the land owners to utilize some of the volunteers in the area to either assist with the grass or gutting but that all requires permission. It may not cost them anything because they just sign a waiver allowing that use but that was one of the recommendations provided to us. The other is if nothing is done and I think we are down to 40 homes on the list right now that based on assessments by beacon of hope and the code enforcement officer there appears to be at least that number that are in the condition that you

are describing as a result of the storm not ones that have been there for years. The other option is again to use the ordinance that would describe them as hazardous or unsafe however that requires a court decision and as I think the DA suggested the goal is not to go in and tear down homes that really don't need to be torn down but to gain access to make them safe and that maybe to gut, board, secure and to cut the grass as a starting measure. Those are the two pieces of advice that we were recommended at the conference we attended and then of course the DA wrote the letter that established the process."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "What does the resident do to get rid of the rodents that are now coming into her house?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "The resident has no legal right to do anything with that house and neither do we unless it goes through the legal process and a judge grants the parish authority."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Who institutes the legal process?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Code enforcement, it is the same existing process a write up, the letters, the court system and again instead of gaining entry to tear down our entry was to make it safe and board it and get rid of the rodents and cut the grass."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So the parish can go in and set the traps to get rid of the rodents when we board and secure?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Well I don't know about all of that the judge makes a ruling on what it allowed."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Do we need a ruling from the judge to board and secure?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "No but if you are going to go into that property and start gutting which all of that is what is causing the rodents it has not been cleaned out but if you were granted access to do that by a judge because we can't just take it upon ourselves to do that..."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So I need to make sure this particular home is on the list?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Right."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "I'm sorry Ms. Sutherland I saw you shaking your head was it not..."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "No."

Councilman Madere stated, "I think it states that the parish president in the previous meeting had the right to determine if a house needed to be demolished and have it torn down without even going to court right?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "No you have to go to court."

Councilman Madere asked, "Okay also to board and secure do we have to go to court?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "No."

Councilman Madere asked, "Okay to get rid of rodents or pick up the trash do we have to go to court?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "If you have to enter the building you have to go to court. To cut the grass on the outside of the facility you do not. You have to notice them."

Councilman Madere asked, "Okay you said enter the building that means inside the structure itself does that mean any part of it like if they have an outside porch or carport underneath would that be considered entering the building?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Legal can you answer that?"

Billy O'Regan, Legal Counsel, stated, "I don't know."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay because like I said we cut the grass on 30th Street, we didn't enter the building.."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Wait a minute I want to stop you really quick, do we have anybody that knows the answer to the question whether it be our P&Z Department, I know you are the assistant district attorney assigned to these properties, do you know the answer?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "If it is an open carport you probably could our rule of thumb is that if you do go onto the property and the resident tells you to get off of the property then you get off of the property and come back with a court order."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well this resident is nowhere to be found."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "We will not enter an actual closed structure."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay so an open structure you can enter and board a window or remove any debris or anything that may be considered unsanitary? I'm talking about the portion on 30th Street and I showed a picture of all the debris and there are rodents in there it is open it isn't closed so we need to go in there and clean that out since you said we have the right to clean that out right?"

Angelic Sutherland asked, "What do you mean clean it?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Pick up the trash."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "It depends on what is in it. If it is enough trash and debris so that it qualifies as more than debris and it gets into a junk yard we go to court for those."

Councilman Madere stated, "No it isn't junk. It is books, writing books, leaves, rodents and everything. It is open."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Usually the grass contractors address that, for example when the grass contractors when we send out the violations

and the contractors go out and cut the grass obviously if there is debris in the yard that is prohibiting them from cutting the grass then they have to remove that as trash."

Councilman Madere stated, "I am not talking about in the yard. It is under the carport which is what you called an open area. There are a lot of things and debris there that the rodents are making nests in and I think that needs to be removed there are a lot of rats."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "It does say that we can board, secure and cut the grass. If it is an open carport I am not understanding how you board that I would have to see pictures."

Councilman Madere stated, "You don't need to board it you need to clean it."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "That isn't part of it."

Councilman Madere stated, "That is why I asked the question were we allowed to go on the porch and pick it up because it is open. You said if it was an open carport we were allowed to go there so we should be allowed to clean."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Normally if it is an open carport we are allowed to go in and access the property to take pictures and things like that but we don't actually do work."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think what may have been a misunderstanding and maybe I gave you the wrong answer because a carport is open we aren't inhibited to go in. The ordinance allows us to board and secure a property that is unsafe and cut the grass. Those are the two things that we do. We don't go on properties and clean them or clean carports and bring out trash. We follow what the ordinance says and that is board and secure hazardous and unsafe buildings and possibly if there is a window under the carport that we need to gain access to board we will do that and cut the grass but in accordance with the ordinance that is what we are allowed to do without a court order."

Councilman Madere stated, "We would need a court order to go inside in the case of what Mrs. Millet is talking about to go inside and get the rodents."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Right."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay then I think we need to file a court order on 30th Street and get in there and get rid of the rats and rodents and get rid of the trash that they have in that house and also for Mrs. Millet."

Councilman Wright asked, "Mrs. Robottom, Ms. Sutherland or legal counsel doesn't Mrs. Robottom have the authority to emergency declare a property as unsafe and demolish it?"

Billy O'Regan stated, "My appreciation of the ordinance and referred to in Mr. Daley's letter that he sent to you all is that the parish president has the ability and the power to designate a structure as unsafe or hazardous to public safety or health but from that point she

has to go to the court house and a judge has to rule on it before demolishing or entering the premises can take place."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "That is not totally correct and I would like to maybe if Mr. Fiffie or Jeff if somebody can chime in on this."

Jeff Perilloux, Legal Counsel, stated, "Let's pull the ordinance and make sure that we are reciting it correctly."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay let's do that."

Councilman Wright stated, "So even then I guess with Mr. Madere's problems I rode through his district with him and there are plenty of properties that need to be demolished I don't know if any progress has even been made on them. They have been there for years and years. So I guess the authority now is going to lie with the parish president to make that final decision. So Mrs. Robottom I have areas in my district, I know Mr. Madere has them and we all do we just want to get with you on those properties and move forward with them and go to the courts."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "The reason why we are discussing this is because from what I have gotten from the DA's office says that the parish president does have under an executive authority in an emergency situation to issue that order and tear down a home we have done it in the past before. I'm sorry I don't want to get too far off on the item. If we have any specific questions."

Councilman Madere stated, "I have one thing that was mentioned several meetings ago by Ms. Angelic when I was on this particular house and Ms. Sutherland said that the president has the authority to have that home demolished she would just have to sign off on it. That was mentioned several meetings ago now we are hearing that even though she signs it we have to go to court. My understanding was if it was in immediate danger of falling. The letter that I received from Mr. O'Regan on behalf of Mrs. Robottom is saying that the house was not in immediate danger of falling and in that case she didn't deem it necessary to have it demolished but at the meeting it was told that the parish president has the right to sign off and say that this house needs to be demolished that is when I made the comment that if it was next door to either one of them it would have been signed the day before. So we need to get this straight. Does the parish president have the authority to sign for a house to be torn down or does she have to sign and then go to court? To me that makes no sense because we can go to court without her signature. So if we can go to court without her signature we don't need a signature, that doesn't make any sense. She should have the power to say the roof is off, the side is coming down and it is in danger of falling she should have the right to sign off that makes sense but to sign and then go to court that doesn't make any sense because I can go to court anyway."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "The code gives her as the chosen person in the parish to make the determination of whether or not you are going to demolish a property. So she makes that call whether a house is going to be demolished if it is in danger of collapsing, if it is not then it would be her call not to demolish it and possibly to board and secure or repair or whatever other remedies exist however once she makes that call on behalf of the parish because it is somebody's private property

you go to court to get a court order to enter onto that property and tear down somebody's private property. So it is a two part process."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well a lot of processes keep popping up because here is the problem we had a situation on 24th Street where we went to court and the house was up to be demolished, the president didn't sign off on that one, we went to court and that house was supposed to be demolished but because of some paperwork that we didn't have the judge granted the guy an extra 90 days. Now if we had that paper and the judge had granted us permission to tear that house down then where was the owner of the property?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "He was in court."

Councilman Madere stated, "So in other words suppose there is a house that we bring and there is no representation in court than what? What happens then?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "If you go to court and the owner isn't present then on behalf of the parish and DA's office I put on our case and we have our code officers testify and then the judge makes a determination as to whether they will grant the demolition order or not. If you don't show up as a defendant and you were properly notified then you don't have the opportunity to defend yourself."

Michael Wright - Cleaning and maintenance of Community Center

Councilman Wright stated, "I put this on here actually to get a recommendation from administration on how they are going to move forward with specialty cleaning with the Civic Center and I see that they are going to be doing that soon. Can you give me an estimated time frame in the next month or so possibly? Can somebody from administration answer this for me?"

Randy Vincent stated, "Within the next couple of weeks we will have an assessment done and at that point we will then have a better idea of how long it will take us to accomplish that."

Councilman Wright asked, "So as of now we have no idea when we are going to get a contractor out there?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "(From her seat) the contractor is already contracted it will be April 12th."

Councilman Wright asked, "Is this going to be on a regular cleaning schedule?"

Randy Vincent stated, "Semi-annually."

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you."

Ranney Wilson - Drainage - Future department in Public Works

Councilman Wilson stated, "A month or so ago the drainage, we were talking about drainage and Ms. Hotard had asked that Mr. Nunes come up with his plan on what was the problem with the drainage and I am looking at what was given to us tonight and it is showing nine people

involved in drainage and I am not sure we even have nine pieces of equipment to do drainage."

Brian Nunes, Director of Public Works, stated, "What you were provided with this evening is an organizational chart of the public works department and all the personnel listed under drainage do in fact work in the drainage department. Not everyone is an operator; there are truck drivers and laborers. There aren't nine pieces of equipment for each person there they all have specialized jobs within the department."

Councilman Wilson asked, "What I am trying to find out is just how many pieces of equipment do we have strictly for drainage purposes?"

Brian Nunes stated, "I can get you an entire equipment list, right now I can break down a few. We have a vacuum truck, street sweeper, three excavators and two dump trucks that are operational."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Yes but that is not all digging ditches if you are looking here for some equipment you have an excavator for \$150,000.00 used and you have another excavator, a vibratory roller, a trailer 4,000 pounds, a bobtail dump truck and a street sweeper. What does that have to do with drainage?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Well the excavator's get right to your point of digging ditches. The more equipment we have the more ditches we can dig. This was just a generalized list of what we are looking to buy right now. The trailer is obviously to transport the excavators as well as the dump trucks. The street sweeper also helps to keep our basins clean."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I mean we have if you look at the excavators at \$150,000.00 for a used piece of equipment. Not all ditches need something that big I mean when you get into the little neighborhoods and subdivisions and the ditches are only 2-3 feet wide it doesn't need a piece of equipment that big to go in there and dig it especially in between the railroad tracks and to Airline Hwy. because if you don't dig that you aren't doing anything because if the water can't get out it isn't going anywhere. Duhon's has some equipment out there that is air-conditioned, it is small equipment that can dig the ditches they have computers that if you are digging 4 inches every time you dig it will be 4 inches. There is a lot more equipment that can be put in here for specific problems. I don't know how big the excavators all but we only have one on hand right now right?"

Brian Nunes stated, "No we have three."

Councilman Wilson asked, "Those are for cleaning canals?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Canals and ditches the bigger ones are for the canals."

Councilman Wilson stated, "That is what I am saying you don't need one that big to dig ditches in my district you can work with smaller equipment and do just as good and maybe a little faster. From what I can see right here we are not going to have a drainage department and this is going to go on until the end of time unless something comes up

with proper equipment and trained people that are certified to operate the equipment and what I am looking at right here doesn't add up with the amount of people that we have. We have 100 miles of ditches to dig just between Mt. Airy and the end of Reserve. You have got to get in between the tracks all the way to the Airline Hwy and that hasn't been done in many years. A lot was done in the first 4-8 years of the council from 1984 through the two terms but nothing has happened since then. Every street has a ditch on both sides you have to take care of everything."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think it is my understanding and maybe some of the council members who were here previously but I think in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 the parish contracted with private companies to dig ditches throughout the parish and I know that probably 4 million dollars were used over that period of time to do so and there were photos and pictures of the ditches that were dug from Mt. Airy, the West Bank and through Reserve. So again there are never done because you need to keep doing them so at that point even if they were done it is maintenance. It is ongoing so there has to be a system for continuing to do that."

Councilman Wilson stated, "We are not doing that, that is the point I am trying to make."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "That is what we are asking for is a system we know that what was done in the past has been problematic and we can't continue to do that in the future because it is something that has to continuously be done that is what we talked about we can't afford to do that and obviously what we had really didn't work so I think that is kind of the basis of what we are asking for let's just get on a preventative maintenance schedule and have our own people constantly digging and cleaning and not all ditches need to be dug and that was a problem we had with just sending excavators out there to dig and then it isn't properly graded and then you create these holes in there if we had just an in-house schedule not as we called it in just constantly doing these type of drainage maintenance items all of the other things would take care of themselves and I think that is just what we are asking for to get a true preventative maintenance schedule. We had them before. I don't know why we don't have them now but let's just get it together. Tell us what it is you need to do it, we know it isn't a perfect system right now it is constantly changing but let us know what equipment we have and what can we do with what we have and then what do we need to do the best that we can and I think that is all that we are really asking for and we will, as a council of course we know drainage is important to us and I am sure it is important to the administration try and give you all of the tools you need but at least for right now with what we do have let's get a plan to take care of some of the small things and go forward. That kind of sums it all up and then we won't have to constantly keep going back and beating this dead horse. It is simple. Preventative maintenance is not new it has been going on forever. If you take care of something, you take care of it that is just the bottom line whether it is your car getting an oil change and if you neglect it you're going to have the problems that we are having now that is all we are asking for is to take care of what we do have as it relates to drainage."

Councilman Wilson stated, "That and the culverts are another thing. The

culverts are too small or they are smashed or clogged."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "And that is another issue, it all boils down to drainage and I think it definitely needs to be addressed that is what we are asking for is a plan from public works to address some of those items."

Councilman Madere stated, "Mr. Nunes I just want to say one thing before I make these comments. I think you have done a good job in trying to address the problems in my district and also Mr. Verdell we met with you a couple of weeks ago and looking at this organizational chart here what I was trying to get across several meetings ago is the fact that this organizational chart can work but the key thing is we have nine people involved in drainage, there isn't an emergency every day. I understand if there is an emergency and we need to move an operator to go and handle a specific situation that still should leave at least 6 guys everyday working on drainage and that is the complaint that I have. I don't think that we have 6 guys every day that are dedicated directly to drainage. It may end up being 2 or 3 guys but I don't think we should go beyond six guys working on drainage and in the area that we live in with the storms and the hurricane season approaching I spoke with an individual from St. James and they have 4 people that are dedicated to drainage year around, 4 people that is all they do nothing but drainage, now when grass cutting season is down they take their grass cutting crew and they add to the drainage department. I think we should do the same. We should never subtract we should always add to the drainage department on days if we are not cutting grass then these other individuals should come over to the drainage department and help clean out because we have to have the drainage department and the ditches in the community in the best possible shape when we are approaching hurricane season that is a must. Even if we have to take some of the guys from grass cutting to prepack sandbags because I personally and it still sticks with me I didn't like the fact that we had to tell the residents to bring your shovel to pack sandbags when we have two automatic baggers. I think we should be bagging sandbags now and storing them somewhere so we can tell our residents instead of bringing a shovel just bring your truck or the back of your car and put some of these bags in because I am thinking about the elderly or someone who is 80 years old, she isn't bringing a shovel. So I think that is one thing that we have to do because myself, Mr. Gauff and Mr. Perrilloux we bagged and delivered bags to elderly people and the way it turned out it is a good thing we did. So I think if we have two machines that are supposed to be automatic baggers, if it takes two people to operate them they should be going 24/7 because we are approaching hurricane season and we should try to help the residents as much as possible by just coming to pick up bags and not bringing their shovel and all of that is in the drainage department and that is why I think we should always have someone working on drainage every day and we should add to it during grass cutting season and not take away."

Councilman Gauff asked, "My question pertains to the West Bank on this chart. The West Bank those guys do a little bit of everything that is why they aren't maybe drainage, grass, streets or whatever they do a little bit of everything?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Those are all operators over there they do

tractors and excavators and we do assist them with projects when needed."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I was just trying to see what they do. Do some of those guys work on drainage like on a daily schedule that is what this is, a little bit of everything whatever the work order has called for that is what they do are work orders?"

Brian Nunes stated, "On the West Bank yes."

Councilman Gauff stated, "Because I guess what most of the council or the ones that have spoken we are looking for that preventative maintenance schedule and the work order system I understand that you all try to accommodate the work orders that we are sending in but if there was a schedule some of the things that we are putting on there as far as work orders may fall under this preventative maintenance schedule that you may say you know what we are going to be addressing that within the next month or couple of weeks and with a schedule at least we would have an idea of what is going to happen and we may not be over loading the work order system which takes some of your people away from what you have scheduled. We don't see a schedule. We don't know a schedule and that is what we are asking for so if I am not speaking for anybody but I think that is what we are asking for that would be in conjunction with the work order system just so that we could see."

Councilman Wilson asked, "Does the water department have their own equipment?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Yes utilities has their own equipment. They have their different excavators, some aren't as big as ours."

Councilman Wilson asked, "So they are not taking anything away from public works?"

Brian Nunes stated, "No."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Looking at this there is nothing that is going to happen. You can fool some of the people some of the time but you are not going to fool all of them. I want to see a drainage department and I want to see people doing only drainage work and that is all and if we have to get the equipment to do it, it doesn't have to be all type of big equipment. There is a lot of equipment out there that can come into this place for a minimum of 36 inches wide so you can get into areas that are back to back and there is a lot more done with this than what we are doing now because right now we have nothing. I want you all to come up with something better than this."

Councilman Madere stated, "I agree with Mr. Gauff about the schedule and I think it is important because two weeks ago I met the guys that were blowing out culverts down 30th Street and informed me that he had to go down every street in my district and he was marking down the addresses that had the small culverts and I said that is a great idea. I saw him that day and he hasn't been down any other streets. So what I am saying is we are going to have a schedule and he tells me that he is going down every street in my district that means the next day I should see him down 29th or 28th and I haven't seen him but down 30th Street and

here we are at the next meeting. So that is why it is important that we have a schedule. If he is scheduled to blow out every culvert down every street in my district then until that assignment is completed every morning I should be able to get up and drive down the next street and see him down that street the next day and that is the only thing that I am say that is why a schedule is so important. If that is what they are assigned to do then I expect that to be done in the district because I was happy to see it but I only saw it one day."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "One item I will add really quickly is with some of the cleaning of the ditches a lot of it is something that we can handle I know right now is the peak grass cutting season as the grass is growing but in some of our down time some of the ditches don't necessarily need to be dug and sometimes you do more harm than good if you are in a shallow ditch and you dig some of it is just a matter of cutting some of the debris that has grown and those types of things so maybe in our maintenance schedule a lot of these areas don't need true equipment they just need more of grass cutting and if we would do a little bit more aggressive weed spraying things like that so we won't have to go in it but a lot of the areas I will say I noticed you wouldn't necessarily want to put a piece of equipment in there because it is so shallow by the time you try and grate it you will create more of a problem with standing water so that may be something just to consider. Thank you very much Mr. Nunes."

Ranney Wilson - Concerned citizens of Reserve

Councilman Wilson stated, "We have some citizens here from Reserve around the W. 19th Street area and I would like to have them come up and say what they have to say."

Kevin Van Camp, Reserve, stated, "We came here back on January 22nd to have a meeting to get some things addressed. I was coming here to actually thank the council but in the last few weeks I have done a little more investigating into these things and I don't really honestly think that a thank you is in order here. On February 6th we had a follow up meeting with Mrs. Robottom, the district fireman, Mr. & Mrs. Vicknair and they said that they went to the building and checked everything out and that everything looked good. Ms. Sutherland said she smelled it and it smelled like something sweet to her. They looked at everything and said that it was fine but the reason there wasn't a permit for them to have an occupational license was because the electrical and grain that was being stored in the building. So as the weeks went on it started getting quieter in our neighborhood, things started to stop, the grain elevator stopped it hadn't ran in like three weeks. The place up front we never heard anything anymore, we didn't see anybody over there doing any work but then all of a sudden we get a fire and we were told two weeks prior to this that there was nothing wrong in this building. So now we have a huge fire out there two Sunday's ago. We want to know why did we have a fire that should never have happened. They don't have an occupational license so they couldn't call 911. They had to call the owner of the property to have him call 911 to get the fire department out there because he has no occupational license which means he pays no taxes in this parish yet. So what you are saying is that we have a clothing store here that has stuff in the building and is operating out of its back door. So we wanted to come and thank you guys I just don't think a thank you is in order here

because they are still operating as a business, they still have volatile things stored outside. I went there today personally and I walked up to the fence because the wind was blowing in my direction and I took my video camera and I was sitting there recording, it was a beautiful day today and I am recording what is going on and I stop my recorder to take a couple of still shots and the owner comes right up to the fence not 10 feet away from me he says I hope you got some good pictures and laughed at me and he drove away and I have him on video with me saying why are you leaving or driving away, talk to us or do you have something to hide and he just drove away. So that is where we are right now. I want to have a follow up meeting and we tried to have one but here we are two months later and we didn't get it. We got a call today, I mean today at 4:30 saying we can set you up for next Thursday, the problem is it is a Thursday at 10:00 AM, we all have jobs we can't make that meeting but we were at another function not long ago and me and Mrs. Robottom were talking and she said yes I have answers for you Kevin and I said I would love to hear them but we never could get together because we are both so busy and it happened so fast within two days yesterday I tried to get a meeting. I called Joy and 30 minutes later Mrs. Robottom calls me back she is in her car saying hey we are going to get this taken care of and I do have answers for you but we don't have any answers yet. So I am here tonight just to see if we could get a few answers, if not we need to get some answers. Does anybody know what is going on with the situation?"

Jobe' Boucvalt, Director of Public Safety, stated, "He is correct they did have a fire at the location, the call was called in by a business next door to 911, the fire department went out there and worked on putting the fire out. I received the call when I saw the location and the address I immediately went out there and called the state fire marshal. The state fire marshal came to the scene and it is under investigation as to what actually caused the fire. That is where we stand on that. The owner was moving the stuff out of the building and there was a lot of activity and I received a call from Mr. Vicknair and I called him immediately and he wanted to know what was going on because they saw the activity and I guess he thought there was a business operating or something going on. The activity was they were moving everything out of the building. Everything is out of the building on the site and the owner is presently looking for a location to move the stuff off of the site to another place. We are not sure what caused the fire at this time that is under investigation by the state fire marshal and I think I shared that with you Mr. Vicknair."

Lonnie Vicknair, 101 W. 17th St., stated, "Yes sir."

Mary Vicknair, 101 W. 17th St., stated, "We had a meeting on February 6th, Ms. Sutherland said that she went into the building and there was nothing in there. If nothing was in there how did this catch on fire?"

Kevin Van Camp stated, "She said she put her hand in there and grabbed some of it and smelled it that means it was in the building."

Mary Vicknair stated, "Yet she didn't see anything. This is going in a circle that is all it is doing."

Lonnie Vicknair stated, "What Ms. Sutherland actually said was on that side of the building there was nothing in there but that was the actual

side of the building that was on fire on Sunday night. We had 7 pieces of equipment from this parish at this facility for over 6+ hours. How much does that cost this parish for a business that is not operating? For 6+ hours these trucks cost well over \$200,000.00 apiece. If the place is not operating why is it in fire? They had to cover this stuff before when it was outside now it catches on fire it is all outside and it is all uncovered. At one point I videoed this thing all night long, every hour on the hour I was back there and if you go to our webpage you can see all the videos we have of it. A guy went in there with a front end loader, grabbed a big bucket of it, it made a big ball of fire, the fire department put the machine out, not the stuff, at this point the guy that is operating the machine is too scared to get back on the machine to go back into the building. A fireman puts on an air pack gets in the machine and he begins to operate the machine putting his life at risk for us which we greatly appreciate all these firemen they do take care of this parish and I get frustrated and I get nervous. This is destroying our health, our lives and our property. Yes we did get a meeting Mr. Boucvalt thank you very much for calling me right back to say they are not operating they are just moving it. They are operating. This place is operating. The fire marshal himself said they are operating. All we want are some answers. We want the stuff moved off of this place now. How long are they going to take to find a place to put it? Where are they going to put it? What other part of the parish are they going to endanger when they move it there? As far as your blighted houses sir years ago I personally tore down several of them. I don't know what changed in the laws or why you can't tear them down anymore but I personally hauled them to the land field myself and it needs to continue."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Following the last meeting we actually had two meetings. We met with the concerned citizens from Reserve to hear their concerns and there were several. The original building that didn't have an occupational license, the secondary building and of course in the discussion came the grain elevators as well. We also met with the property owners to make sure that they were aware of what those complaints were. As I explained to Kevin and the Vicknair's we had conversations and I followed up with the Secretary of Agriculture Dr. Strain, the DHH with regards they gave us a very specific list of questions concerning health as well as DEQ concerning your air monitor. What we did was each of the secretaries forwarded our concerns on to someone who could research and answer them. They provided separate responses and as I explained to Kevin I forwarded those to Ms. Sutherland to put together in one report. In the meantime we met with the owners who agreed that nothing else would be done however there was materials in the building and neither Jobe' nor Angelic said there was nothing in there, what they said was that there was no operation, that they didn't have all of their equipment but there was the debris inside of the building that they actually picked up and touched. Mr. Boucvalt said it wasn't hot to the touch and there wasn't a sensitive smell because the original complaint was about the smell so when they went into the building it was to determine if that product/material was producing an odor. So they did acknowledge that there was material in the building, there was no functional equipment as the owner said they ordered equipment it was not in however they could not operate because they did not have fire marshal approval yet. So they could not operate the facility. There were also materials outside which again we were trying to figure out what was causing the odor but it was some of the

same type of product again my question to the department of Agriculture regarding bad gas and some corn gluten was if it was hazardous, if it produced a smell or an odor, what dangers were caused by those and of course we were told and of course there is a more formal written report that those are agricultural products that did not release or cause any type of problems. With regards to the air monitor, I think you requested an air monitor through DEQ I spoke with the secretary Peggy Hatch who directed me to a deputy who said the placement of air monitors is based on the criteria that is established in the department and that is what they follow. They don't necessarily place them where they are requested there is criteria that dictates distances which I have not gotten an official written response from her it was verbal. When we spoke with DHH I think there were some concerns about if some of the agents were cancer causing. The products that were described as being in the building were not. There are some concerns about grain and grain dust and what the particles need to be again that is out of my hands and again it is not the business that we are looking at. There was a fire. The fire marshal is investigating and they were directed to move everything out of the building which is what I think Mr. Vicknair saw when they were taking everything out of the building not because they needed an occupational license but they had not been granted occupancy. The owner agreed and you are correct it was a major fire, she was called out to the scene and I think it frightened them as well and she agreed to move everything out and off of the property however the fire marshal stated he had no authority to have her move it off of the property. What he had jurisdiction over was occupancy of the building. We have spoken to the owners again this week who are looking for some type of facility to move it to, not another property that was not my understanding it was some type of barge to barge it away and again without any authority to dictate that it be removed from the property it could not be in the building which is why we started seeing the activity and that is what we are following up on. We assigned a code enforcement officer to go there twice a day after the last meeting and they did and there wasn't activity until they started moving everything out of the building after the fire someone has been going back as well and when I spoke with you on the phone you said there was more material than ever and my question is, is it because it is coming out of the building and according to Ms. Sutherland and the two code enforcement officers that she saw yes it looks like there is more on the property because they took everything out of the building in preparation to move it from the site. So as I explained to you Kevin and to the Vicknair's we didn't sit on our hands. We immediately followed up on every question that you asked. We had more than one meeting. We have been having follow calls with the owners directing them to take care of this and that is what we have been doing. So the activity that you have seen lately and we have an agreement and commitment and confirmation from the owner they are moving it completely off of the site. They took it out of the building immediately and then it is going to be moved or barged away and they are trying to find a process to do that so you are likely to see some more activity when they are moving it off of the site that is what we did following the meeting. We are not done obviously in completing the solution but we did take action and we took action immediately."

Mary Vicknair stated, "Well I am going to tell you that the smell and stench yesterday was awful you could almost throw up. I would like for Ms. Sutherland to explain herself if she said there was nothing in the

building..

Natalie Robottom stated, "She didn't say there was nothing in the building she actually said they touched what was in the building, they put their hands in it and there were piles of debris, they smelled it both her and Mr. Boucvalt both said it was in the building. They didn't see any operating equipment. The owners said they had ordered equipment but it had not all come in. They had no fire marshal approval to operate so they were not operating but both of them acknowledged that there were piles of debris in the building and they actually touched it and said it wasn't hot to the touch and there was no offensive odor but they both acknowledged that there were materials in the building and there were materials outside. What they said was that they did not smell an odor or the odor that you all thought was coming from that building and we still don't know if that is it but there is still an odor and that is what we went in to initially investigate and did not find that however found some other things and began taking action."

Mary Vicknair stated, "So if the fire marshal told her that it was okay to have the materials in the building."

Kevin Van Camp stated, "It was okay to have the materials in the building that there was nothing wrong with it because we had someone there from the fire department saying there was nothing wrong with the building. The problem is when you take pile A and pile B and you mix those two together and you put a drop of water to it then you have combustible material. So they piled the two piles up outside. So now we have these two heaping piles sitting next to each other right behind an oil refinery so all it is going to take for those piles to get mixed up enough so where they will start their own fire. So what we are asking is what is the timeline on this? When are they going to be able to move this out? Anybody can say we are trying but we can try for ten years but if we don't say you need this removed in the next 30 days because it is a danger to society."

Natalie Robottom stated, "That has not been determined by any of the entities that are familiar the secretary of agriculture are all saying this isn't in their jurisdiction. The fire marshal said get it out of the building they didn't have a certificate of occupancy so I can tell you get out. I can't tell you to remove this from your own property at this point. The occupancy has been determined by the fire marshal that is what he regulates. We don't regulate occupancy. We issue occupational licenses for doing business. The fire marshal did his job and he said you don't have a certificate of occupancy get it out and they did. Nobody has control over what they store on their property outside of the building however we are working with and encouraging the owners to move it off and she has agreed that she is doing that and we are going to follow up I think Ms. Sutherland spoke with her yesterday if not today and according to the owner she has about four weeks and she is attempting to get it out of the neighborhood."

Kevin Van Camp stated, "I would just like to thank you guys for listening to what we had to say and like we are saying it is back in your hands again. We thought it had stopped because things were being done and we found out that there is a grain shortage so that is why things haven't really been running. They are getting into compliance and in three months they are going to be full blast again and we are

going to be back in three months doing this all over again. So we just want to thank you guys for what you are doing. We want to thank Mrs. Robottom she has been doing things and calling and communicating. So you guys have a good night."

Sandra Remondet, 165 W. 17th St., stated, "I called the DEQ today and they told me that they are operating because they gave them a license to operate on March 19th from the Fire Department that the state fire department has issued them a permit so somebody is lying. I mean I called this afternoon because the odor last night was so bad it was terrible maybe we are blaming it on them, it could have been Marathon also."

Kevin Van Camp stated, "There were a couple of things that happened last night and it wasn't just on that particular source. What she is talking about is one thing. I was working in my yard the other night and heard alarms from Marathon and there was a smell so we cannot blame it on that one particular area because there were two different things going on that particular night but what she is saying is there was some type of water permit that was given by the DEQ about the drain off."

Sandra Remondet stated, "From the state fire marshal, DEQ said the state fire marshal gave them a permit because they have these piles and they have to have it permitted in case it catches fire. They have to have their water permit because it is running into the ditches and if they put this out this is going into the ditch so they have to have a permit. This is what the gentleman explained to me that is why they had to issue them a permit so they have to be occupied or doing something if they have to have a water permit."

Jobe' Boucvalt stated, "I can't answer the question as far as a water permit but I can tell you is one thing that was stated up here that is not correct is number one the state fire marshal has nothing to do with the water permit from DEQ. I talked with the state fire marshal office today and yesterday and they have never issued a permit for this business. They told this business to get the stuff out of the building. They are not operating. They do not have fire marshal approval or a permit."

Sandra Remondet stated, "I am just saying what I was told today. It needs to be investigated."

Ranney Wilson - Planning & Zoning

Councilman Wilson stated, "Over the last year I have had numerous calls about going to Planning & Zoning and trying to get something is a nightmare. I have been out of office for 8 years and a lot of changes have been made in the process for Planning & Zoning. Ms. Sutherland and I had a good talk and she advised me that the state put in a lot of laws that pertain to what goes on today and the state things are probably the biggest problems and if the state put it in they have to comply so I am satisfied with her answer."

Lennix Madere - Homewood residents

No one was present from Homewood this item was removed from the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Theresa Rodgers - Resolution - R13-08 - A resolution authorizing the Parish President to execute document and agreements required in the submission of the application for funding for the Foxwood Levee Project under the Hurricanes Gustav/Ike CDBG Parish-Implemented Recovery Program and certifying that the "Urgent Need" national policy objective is being met

Theresa Rodgers stated, "Full grant applications are due by May 1st for compliance with the Disaster Recovery Unit's Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) program. The applications require certification that projects are "urgently needed" and are a direct result of damages sustained in Hurricanes Gustav/Ike. You will see that there are three additional resolutions one for each specific project. Administration recommends approval of this resolution relative to the Foxwood Levee project."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Is this a requirement for the CDBG? Is this something that they were asking us to do?"

Theresa Rodgers stated, "Yes it is like a formal, we will have to submit the resolution along with the full grant application."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay thank you."

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R13-08 - A resolution authorizing the Parish President to execute document and agreements required in the submission of the application for funding for the Foxwood Levee Project under the Hurricanes Gustav/Ike CDBG Parish-Implemented Recovery Program and certifying that the "Urgent Need" national policy objective is being met. The motion passed unanimously.

Theresa Rodgers - Resolution - R13-09 - A resolution authorizing the Parish President to execute documents and agreements required in the submission of the application for funding for the Canal Clearing Project under the Hurricanes Gustav/Ike CDBG Parish-Implemented Recovery Program and certifying that the "Urgent Need" national policy objective is being met

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to approve Resolution R13-09 - A resolution authorizing the Parish President to execute documents and agreements required in the submission of the application for funding for the Canal Clearing Project under the Hurricanes Gustav/Ike CDBG Parish-Implemented Recovery Program and certifying that the "Urgent Need" national policy objective is being met. The motion passed unanimously.

Theresa Rodgers - Resolution - R13-10 - A resolution authorizing the Parish President to execute documents and agreements required in the submission of the application for funding for the Parish Generators Project under the Hurricanes Gustav/Ike CDBG Parish-Implemented

Recovery Program and certifying that the "Urgent Need" national policy objective is being met

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Resolution R13-10 - A resolution authorizing the Parish President to execute documents and agreements required in the submission of the application for funding for the Parish Generators Project under the Hurricanes Gustav/Ike CDBG Parish-Implemented Recovery Program and certifying that the "Urgent Need" national policy objective is being met. The motion passed unanimously.

Theresa Rodgers - Resolution - R13-11 - A resolution authorizing the Parish President to execute documents and agreements required in the submission of the application for funding for the LaPlace (Peavine) Boat Launch Project under the Hurricanes Gustav/Ike CDBG Parish-Implemented Recovery Program and certifying that the "Urgent Need" national policy objective is being met

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution R13-11 - A resolution authorizing the Parish President to execute documents and agreements required in the submission of the application for funding for the LaPlace (Peavine) Boat Launch Project under the Hurricanes Gustav/Ike CDBG Parish-Implemented Recovery Program and certifying that the "Urgent Need" national policy objective is being met. The motion passed

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R13-12 - A resolution in support of Senators Landrieu, Baucus, Lautenberg and Menendez's request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) action on premium fees for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Natalie Robottom stated, *"This is very much specific to the NFIP a premium increase that was discussed earlier and that we will have a FEMA representative coming to speak with us about. Senator Landrieu on behalf of not only the state of Louisiana but all the areas affected by disasters recently has asked FEMA to delay implementation of the new premium that is related to a lack of subsidy from the national flood insurance program. Obviously we are at the core of that as one of the entities that were just recently affected. As you read through her letter attached the resolution has specific information but FEMA when tasked, when the law was passed FEMA's task was doing a study to determine what the impact of those increases will be to local income families. They anticipate it is going to be negative and what she is asking for is before they implement any of the proposed changes that they complete the study and share those with the congress, the residents and with local entities so that we can prepare for them accordingly. So based on the information that was provided at the HOA meeting and what will be provided to us it is still not complete as the guidelines have not been established but Senator Landrieu and her colleagues did ask that they delay implementation until they work all the kinks out so obviously I think as a council and parish president that we support the Senator in her effort to assist us at this time."*

Councilman Wilson asked, *"Is anything in here going to make people have to have insurance in those flood zones?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"That is already in place. It is already*

mandatory that in certain areas that you have flood insurance. The maps were redrawn prior to 2010 and it actually included areas that had not previously had to have flood insurance but we adopted that in 2010. There are areas to our East that are doing it now because they waited for the levee protection to be finished so some of their rates will be lower. Our rates are already in place. They aren't increased because of Isaac. This was already something that was in place based on new mapping and one is very different from the other what this may do and again because they haven't worked out the guidelines it was passed in July of 2012 in the past FEMA has allowed you if flooded to build back at your grandfathered in levels and then they subsidized your insurance rates. What they are saying now is that it is creating a deficit in FEMA they can no longer do that so they are trying to implement a method of graduating you into paying your real premium or making changes to your structure that would result in it not flooding. Again this is something new, I think they are also trying to determine how they are going to get this information out to residents, what the guidelines are going to be at this point they are different triggers that trigger different things they are starting with rental properties and there is a timeline for residents and the goal is to over a 4-5 year period to give you up to what your premium should be if you are below the base flood elevation but you know it is still new information they haven't determined how to implement or when. Our Senators are asking delay this until you get a better handle on it even though it passed in July and was supposed to go into effect this year. So obviously we are in support of any delay or any change that would help our residents and we are going to continue to work with the Senator to move that."

Councilman Wilson stated, "The reason why I asked was because I moved in my house in July just before the storm. My insurance was \$900.00 a month, after Katrina it went up to almost \$3000.00 I was just wondering if they are going to force us some more to get more insurance."

Natalie Robottom stated, "This one was specific to flood insurance. All insurance went up after Katrina, deductibles went up and the requirement for building codes but that shouldn't affect you this is specific to the national flood insurance program and those who are known to be below the base flood elevation and FEMA has been subsidizing their insurance rates."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just want to clarify one item, you did say that FEMA is going to require you to carry flood insurance if you do not have a mortgage you do not have to have flood insurance. That is your option. The mortgage company is going to require it not FEMA."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Based on the base flood elevations, the insurance requirement is based on the base flood elevations and if you have it and are being subsidized by FEMA they are saying that they are no longer going to do that."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Right."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "And the other requirement is if you want to participate in the flood insurance program and you are in a flood zone then you do need to have the flood insurance you can't flood later and then try and make a claim through the flood insurance program."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Do we have any input through Senator Landrieu whereas I know half of Cambridge their flood insurance is going up I know that but it might be a little bit easier to digest if they could pay their flood insurance by the month or quarter because they require that you pay all of your flood insurance at one time right now and I think this year coming up I think we are going to have to pay 25% they are not going to just stop it all together but I think you will have to pay 25% more than what we were paying and the government is going to have to ease it back but I am concerned that we are going to become a ghost town back there that is what is going to happen unless we get some kind of release with the premiums."

Natalie Robottom stated, "The other option Mr. Snyder, you are correct and I am not sure we will be able to deal with that aspect but is to help them elevate their homes. So there is funding. They are aware that is going to be the other option elevation and acquisition which was that first 1.9 million that we got out of Gustav funds as we start to prepare for Hurricane Isaac funds there will be some mitigation dollars as well. New Orleans used it like road home, we would have to design our own program but that is going to be a key component which is why they are trying to delay implementation because they are trying to avoid just what you are saying you can't change the rule and expect that people who have just went through some type of devastation will quickly be able to jump and do this new requirement and your option is going to be either pay this additional insurance or elevate your home. Well both are very difficult so they are looking at programs to assist residents with the elevation or possible acquisition for homes that have flooded repetitively that is what they are starting with but in the plan that our long term recovery group and that our citizens advisory committee has been working on is trying to figure out what types of dollars would be helpful for our community and clearly elevation dollars would be part of that. I think I forwarded something to you unfortunately I think there is a 25% match that goes along with that but they have also suggested to us ways that we can help them get in kind through donation or non-profit or even there is another source of funding that we are hoping to possibly be able to use through HUD that can sometimes be used as a match. We are continuing to explore all of those options. I will make a request regarding how the premiums are paid. I am not sure who will dictate that but on the other hand nobody wants to pay the additional premiums. If you can do something to your home that will protect you and keep you from doing that then obviously we want to help you to do that and that is a goal."

Councilman Wilson asked, "Do we have a new map showing what areas are in the flood zone now?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "They are online, in Planning & Zoning and we probably have one in the council office."

Natalie Robottom stated, "They can also and I think it is difficult if you are not sure what you are looking at with regards to a map but the Planning & Zoning office actually has and can GIS your property and tell you what flood zone you are in. So that information has been available and will continue to be since 2010."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I have just two comments. One thing and I

guess this is why we are at this awkward crossroad is because with the hurricane protection levee all this goes away and so if people are in the process of elevating their home even if it is 8-10 years before a levee is constructed you still have elevated your structure and there is some uneasiness I guess about people elevating homes. It is not the easiest to get in and out of, now you have a ramp or steps or your neighbor may not elevate so you have this mixed thing so it is almost as if people are kind of stuck on what do I really do? Do I elevate but if we get a levee...

Natalie Robottom stated, "And the insurance rates are lower that is why I have advocated for hurricane protection is our number one concern. We are dealing with a lot of things right now but nothing is more important to us than that and that helps people decide to rebuild, it helps provide a comfort level for businesses, it helps with insurance rates. That is our number one concern. We do have some additional information. It is still moving. It is not done. We cannot give up. I have not everyone who is working on our behalf get regular contact from us this is our number one concern. Anything else we can provide great but this is what we need help on right now in order for our community to recover we need assistance with the hurricane protection levee."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "The other item that I wanted to mention is that they mention in the report here the significant effect on low income home owners and while the affect will be more significant on a low income you will have people who maybe on a middle income level that now if you are increased you were paying \$1,000.00 a year and now you are paying \$5,000.00 a year which 4 to \$500.00 extra a month on your mortgage that is devastating to even a middle income family. I don't want people to think this is just for homeowners that are in that low income range this can possibly affect everyone."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And business owners who have more than one property, it is huge for us which is why everything we can do to support the Senators efforts as well as all of our delegations efforts to assist us is what we need to be doing."

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to approve Resolution R13-12 - A resolution in support of Senators Landrieu, Baucus, Lautenberg and Menendez's request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) action on premium fees for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good Evening. Congratulations to the 10 year old St. John Warriors. The team has been named Regional Champions and is playing tonight at Jefferson Park. The winner of tonight's game will advance to the Biddy Basketball National Championship Game. Good Luck! I would like to extend my greatest thanks to Eight Days of Hope and the 2510 volunteers from four countries for volunteering in St. John the Baptist Parish March 9 through 16. Volunteers from the organization clocked in more than 100,000 hours of repair work on 229 Hurricane Isaac damaged homes, completing 67, and finishing 631 home repair projects. A vigorous cleanup of Isaac-devastated neighborhoods was another task accomplished by volunteers as well as various projects

around the community including repairs to Regala Park. Thank you Eight Days of Hope! I would also like to say thank you to the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School Seniors for choosing St. John Parish as their class service project for the year. On Tuesday, March 19, students picked up trash, cleaned up playground areas and added fresh mulch to various parks throughout the parish in an effort to prepare for the Easter in the Parks event. Thank you St. Thomas Aquinas Seniors and Coach Errol Gauff for your efforts to make St. John a better place! St. John has been blessed tremendously with volunteer help since Hurricane Isaac. I don't want to forget to thank the 120 students from Clemson University of South Carolina for volunteering here during their Spring Break last week. Thank you for your efforts! As hundreds of volunteers have served in St. John the Baptist Parish since the Hurricane Isaac, and as other volunteers are expected to arrive in St. John; projects that were not complete will remain on the St. John VRC list for future volunteer assistance. Residents who are still in need of Hurricane Isaac rebuilding assistance can call the Home Repair Hotline at (985) 359-0254 Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., email isaacassistance@gmail.com or visit www.stjohnrecovery.com. The St. John Relay for Life Committee held its annual Survivor Brunch this past weekend. I would like to thank them for the invite to the brunch and encourage our residents to support all the teams at the St. John Relay for Life this year between 3:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. Saturday, April 11 on the grounds of the St. John Civic Center. Thank you to everyone who attended the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) Community Advisory Committee (CAC) open houses held last week to vote on proposed projects. The group received great feedback on all topics. The NDRF CAC also reaching out follow up with seniors at Council On Aging. The meeting on the West Bank was held today. Another meeting will be held at the East bank Council on Aging Center Monday, April 1. All seniors are invited to attend. Residents who were unable to attend the meetings can still participate through Tuesday, April 2 by visiting www.sjbparish.com and clicking One Parish, One Future Building Back Better and Stronger link to an online ballot. St. John the Baptist Parish Administration and Council will host Easter in the Park this Saturday, March 30 at various Parish parks from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Children ages 2-12 are invited to participate in an Easter egg hunt and visit with the Easter bunny. Food, refreshments and prizes will also be provided for participants. Visit sjbparish.com or Channel 15 for more information. I'd like to thank the West Bank Civic Association, Wallace Indians and all who participated in the WB Easter in the Park at the WB Complex and Wallace Park this past Saturday. Due to conflicting schedules, the WB Easter in the Parks took place a week early. Local businesses are invited to the River Region Chamber of Commerce Reverse Trade Show on April 4 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the National Guard Readiness Center in Reserve. During this event, procurement representatives from large companies are seated at various booths in which local businesses visit to learn how to do business with that company. It is an opportunity for local businesses to network with other companies and recruit new customers. For more information, contact the Chamber at 985-359-9777. Registration for St. John the Baptist Parish 2013 Youth Baseball Season is now open for boys and girls ages 5 to 14 years old. Interested participants can complete the registration form online at sjbparish.com and submit it to the Parks and Recreation Department, or contact Debra Poche in the Parks and Recreation Department at 985-652-9569 extension 1168 or at d.poche@sjbparish.com. The deadline to

register for Baseball is Friday, April 5, 2013. The Parks and Recreation Department is also seeking coaches for this 2013 Youth Baseball season. Anyone interested in coaching is asked to contact the Parks and Recreation Department. This year's baseball season kicks off in late April and runs through June. This is a reminder that the Spring Municipal Election will be held on Saturday, April 6. Early voting is currently taking place now through Saturday, March 29, excluding Good Friday at the Registrar of Voters offices in LaPlace and Edgard. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. on election days. A town hall meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m. at Rising Star Baptist Church, 620 Cardinal St. in LaPlace. The public is invited to attend to express concerns and questions to Parish Officials. The St. John Clean Sweep will be held on April 13, 2013. Anyone interested in participating is asked to sign-up online at sjbparish.com. All participants will meet at Highway 51 Park in LaPlace at 8:30 a.m. to kick off the event and to pick up supplies before dispatching to clean up areas throughout St. John. Volunteers will meet back at the park at 11:30 a.m. for music, food and refreshments. Anyone interested in volunteering for clean sweep can contact Dana Milioto at 985-652-9569 or register at sjbparish.com. The 40th Judicial District Children & Youth Services Planning Board Prevention Committee is registering participants for a free fishing camp for children ages 8-14 from St. John the Baptist Parish on April 20 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Bonnet Carre Spillway Launch, U.S. 61 and the East Levee in Norco. Fishing poles and bait will be provided. Lunch will also be served. Volunteers are needed to help. For applications, please call Bernell Charles at 504-570-4885. Residents are encouraged to gut homes and place storm related debris near the curb as soon as possible to ensure it is collected. Residents are reminded that contractors are responsible for disposal of debris resulting from new construction. Tree cutting contractors are responsible for disposing of tree limbs and branches. Small piles of debris can be placed in bags and in the green garbage cans for collection. Although trucks were not in the area for a brief period of time including the time 8 Days of Hope was in town, debris trucks are in the area collecting. Addresses received during the time the trucks were not in town were reported and provided to DRC. In an effort to assist in debris pick-up, residents are asked to phone-in debris complaints to DRC hotline at 504-256-1067, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The Department of Public Works is continuing to pick up tree limbs that are placed near the curb by residents. Please submit a work order through the website or by calling the office at 985-652-4815. A reminder to residents: When concerns arise after business hours in reference to water, wastewater, roads, or drainage please contact 9-1-1 who will then report it to the appropriate departments. This allows for correct documentation and reporting. This is also the most efficient way to handle concerns. All Parish Offices will be closed this Friday, March 29 in observance of the holiday weekend. Happy Easter!"

COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Smith stated, "I would like to say thank you to everyone that aided in my recovery and let everyone know I am fine and back in business and my health is good and I would like to say a special thank you to my wife for taking care of me and putting up with all of the

hassle that I know I gave her and friends and family that wished me good luck."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I would just like to wish everybody a very blessed Good Friday and Easter Season please be careful."

Councilman Madere stated, "I did ride with Mr. Mark Stafford over the weekend. I brought him through District III and I also told him about Garyville and Mt. Airy. He assured me that the debris would be picked up by Monday. I went back and checked Monday and it didn't happen so this morning I called Mr. Wilson and told him about it and he assured me that it would be picked up by this afternoon and all the people who called me in District III I will be riding down those streets tomorrow morning to see that Mr. Wilson keeps his promise and if he didn't I will be on the phone because I want these addresses that he promised would be picked up Monday morning cleared before the Easter holidays so these people can enjoy their holiday. Also I would like to thank the people from 8 days of hope I wish all of those that came down here a very Happy Easter and also for the agenda next week my favorite people Comcast will be on the agenda again next week. As I sit in this seat as your District representative like I told Mr. Wilson I am 365 days of hope for the people in my District so feel free to call me at any time."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I would like to thank Mark Stafford for calling me but I couldn't ride with him so I asked Councilman Madere to go through the neighborhood for me but I will be following up in District IV to see if everything has been picked up. I would like to say Happy Easter to the residents of St. John and Happy Birthday to my wife."

Councilman Wright stated, "I just want to wish everyone a Happy Easter."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I would like to thank Mr. Nunes we finally got our flag over at the Arcuri Center and the stop signs, last year one of the things I asked for was to change the stop signs in the parish because some people had gotten tickets for not stopping but they couldn't see them at night. When you hit a stop sign with a light it is supposed to light up and these got to the point that they didn't do anything, especially when it is raining. We do have Easter in the Parks this Saturday and hopefully a bunny rabbit will come by and Mr. Vincent and Mrs. Debra thank you for putting that tournament on last weekend before it was great. You all did a good job it was great so thank you for that."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just want to wish everyone a very safe and Happy Easter and enjoy the crawfish if you can find it. Also I want to remind everyone that there will be an Easter Egg Hunt at the Greenwood Park right there across from LaPlace Elementary and I think the age group this year is 2-12 and also it starts at 11:00 AM."

Councilman Gauff stated, "Okay once again I would like to say don't forget about Pups in the Park on April 6th also congratulations to Mrs. Bossier she turned 100 years old this past weekend. I worked all weekend so I wasn't able to make the celebration of her life my dad made it over and told me how special and very nice it was so

congratulation to her. I would like to say to the residents of St. John Happy Easter and have a safe one."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would also like to wish everyone a Happy Easter and I would also like to say I did attend the celebration of life if you will for Mrs. Bossier and it was amazing just to meet someone that was making 100 and still in such good health. I would also like to congratulate my daughter and the other girls that were named to the Riverside Academy cheering squad they were very excited this weekend."

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to go into executive session to discuss Personnel Matters - Planning & Zoning Regulator. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel Matters - Planning & Zoning Regulator

In 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

Cable Franchise Agreement

LaPlace Industrial Properties, LLC versus The Parish of St. John the Baptist - 40th JDC, Docket No. 61301

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

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:48 PM, Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Jaclyn Hotard
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary