

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 9th, 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 Rudolph Soraparu Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, March 9th, 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

ABSENT: Dale Wolfe & Danny Millet

Councilwoman Usry led the Prayer. Councilwoman Millet led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Barry Landry & Jeff Perilloux were present.

Ronnie Smith – Proclamation – Coach Jasmine – Inducted into the Loyola Basketball Hall of Fame

Councilman Smith request that this item be carried over to the next agenda.

Proclamation – Red Cross Month

Pat McTopy, Acting Parish President, read out the proclamation proclaiming March 2010 as American Red Cross Month in St. John the Baptist Parish and encouraged all Americans to support this organization and its noble humanitarian mission.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes February 23rd, 2010, Regular Meeting; Ronnie Smith – Housing Board Appointment; Dale Wolfe – Re-appointment of Peter Jasper to the River Parish Tourist Commission.

Councilman Smith stated, *"I would like to remove my item, the housing board appointment, from the agenda."*

Councilwoman Millet asked, *"I'm not really sure on how the appointments are done on this particular board and Mr. Wolfe isn't here."*

Julia Remondet, Director of EDC, stated, *"The member of the River Parishes Tourist Commission comes from the EDC Committees from each three parishes. There is a Parish President appointment and a Council appointment."*

Councilwoman Millet asked, *"So is this our Council appointment?"*

Julia Remondet stated, "Yes. He has served on it the last term and he wanted to be re-appointed as well."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Is he here?"

Julia Remondet stated, "No he isn't here today. He is sick."

Councilman Julien stated, "Mr. Wolfe asked me to let you all know that he is ill and that he wanted to go ahead and re-appoint Mr. Jasper. So I just wanted to let everyone know he wasn't here because he is ill."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "What is the term on this?"

Julia Remondet stated, "It is a two year term."

Ronnie Smith stated, "I don't know Mr. Jasper. Again because I don't know Mr. Jasper or anything about this I am going to have to abstain from the vote. It will come out later exactly why I am abstaining from this vote."

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes February 23rd, 2010, Regular Meeting; Dale Wolfe – Re-appointment of Peter Jasper to the River Parish Tourist Commission. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 abstaining (Smith) and 2 absent (Wolfe & Danny Millet).

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

10-04 (Tabled 02-23-10) (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)

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to remove Ordinance 10-04 from the table. The motion passed with Councilmen Wolfe and Danny Millet absent.

Coleman Clark, 3447 Lena St., Grandpoint, LA, stated, "I am a taxpayer and voter here in St. John Parish and this is my main concern with this. As part of the organization I am the vice-president. This has been in court and we have gone back and forth, apparently every body in the court is not doing what they are supposed to be doing. This was land that was set aside for people of color for education. Now we have a resident person that is saying that he has taken care of this land. We have all kind of documents showing that this land here should not be re-zoned. It should not even be awarded to this person. There are still people that are existing from my great-grandfather, as well as my grandfather on both sides of my family. We plan to do something with this land. How it is being manipulated in the courts, we really don't know. We are asking that you do not re-zone this land. We do have plans for it. We have been raising money to pay the lawyers to represent us as well as to turn around and put a monument statue on this piece of property. If we continue to let things like this here be done we are constantly corrupting St. John Parish and we don't need anymore of

that. So we are asking the council please do not re-zone this for commercial land. It was not put there for that reason. A lot of you all on this council, you know me and you know what I stand for and I wouldn't come to you without asking you not to do this. So please do not re-zone this property. It is still in the courts and we have been fighting this for almost three years now."

Councilwoman Usry asked, "Who owns the land?"

Jeff Perilloux, Legal Counsel, stated, "This is a matter that has been in court for some time. I don't know that the question of ownership has totally been decided but there is a judgment that has been rendered by Judge Snowdy that declares one Gerald Bastian to be the owner of the property. That particular judgment has been challenged but to my knowledge nothing has taken place in the case as it pertains to the merits in about a year and a half or so."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "In other words, is it on appeal and has not been resolved or is it not up for appeal? You kind of lost me a little bit in there."

Jeff Perilloux stated, "It is not on appeal. There was a judgment rendered in favor of Mr. Bastian. A subsequent suit was filed to nullify that judgment in Division C. Some exceptions were filed. There was a court date set in November of 2008 for some of those matters to be heard and that court date was continued without date which means that it has not been reset. The court declared it to be continued or postponed without resetting it again for another date. So it is up to the parties to go and ask the court to reset it and have it heard before the judge."

Councilman Lewis stated, "I have two problems with this zoning. I have one we had zoned that area there maybe ten or twelve years ago for heavy industry and I think the zoning is still standing. I would hate to change the zoning over there. Also being a historical site in that area, I would like to table this item so that I can take a closer look at this item."

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to table Ordinance 10-04. The motion passed with Councilmen Wolfe and Danny Millet absent.

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

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 10-05. The motion passed with Councilmen Wolfe and Danny Millet absent.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

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)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Lee stated, *"At 6:00 PM this evening the finance committee met. We had a total of ten items to discuss. 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 Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to take the proposals for Property, Casualty & General Liability Proposals under advisement, approved to grant administration authorization to sign an agreement with Providence Engineering in relation to the Hazard Mitigation Plan update grant received from FEMA, approved to grant administration authorization to advertise for bids for the Regala Gymnasium as part of the 2009 Bond Issue, approved to authorize administration to advertise for bids for Phase 2 of water towers as part of the 2009 Bond Issue, approved to grant administration authorization to advertise for bids for manhole repairs as part of the 2010 Bond Issue, approved to grant administration authorization to enter into Engineering Contracts relative to the Coastal Improvement Assistance Program (CIAP) funding for Reserve Relief Canal and Lac Des Allemands projects, approved to take the bid for Ice House Equipment from John S. Noble, LLC under advisement, approved to take the three bids for generator installation at Ruddock Well No. 2 site, Ruddock station No. 2 site and Ruddock Station No. 3 site under advisement, and approved to authorize the parish president to execute an agreement with C. J. Savoie Consulting Engineers, LLC to perform work on the sewer manhole project at a fee not to exceed \$28,000.00. The motion passed with Councilmen Wolfe & Danny Millet absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

Councilman Wolfe was not present at the meeting. His item will remain on the agenda.

Charles Julien - Update on LA 3179/E. 22nd Street, Reserve lighting project

Councilman Julien stated, *"I would like for administration to give us an update on the lighting situation that has been going on."*

Verdell Kendricks, Public Works Department, stated, *"So far we have added lights to every pole down E. 22nd Street/Hwy. 3179. In order for us to continue to get up to Airline, just to clear the property is going to run about \$80,000.00. That would be to clear the property in order for us to add additional lighting up to Airline Hwy. Also it will cost a lot for Entergy to come in and put more lights and poles. We do not have the exact figure of what it is going to cost. If we could find the money to do it, I guess administration would be willing to do it."*

Councilman Julien asked, "You said poles. How many lights did you all add to the poles they had and how many existing poles were there already?"

Verdell Kendricks stated, "To the existing poles we added at least ten lights."

Councilman Julien asked, "When was the last time you all worked on lights and when was the last time you all added lights?"

Verdell Kendricks stated, "The last time when you asked us about the lighting in that area."

Councilman Julien asked, "So we are talking about four month's maybe?"

Buddy Boe, Acting CAO, stated, "Mr. Julien there are lights on every pole that exist on E. 22nd. So what we asked Entergy was what would it take to install poles? At first they said we have to clear the right-of-way which would take property acquisition and then clearing the right-of-way for them to run their poles and remove all of the trees. That estimate was about \$80,000.00. We then asked Entergy to come back and we are waiting on the final figures for what it would cost to install all the poles, run the wiring and then install the lighting. When we get that figure, would you like us to call a meeting with yourself to discuss the project as a whole because it will take property acquisition and then the cost associated with actually installing poles, running wires and installing the lighting but there are lights on every existing pole on Hwy. 3179 which is all we can do unless we determine that this is a needed lighting project for the entire stretch."

Councilman Julien stated, "I think it is a needed lighting situation. It is extremely dark. We have had people injured and killed back there in the past. I think it is a situation where a lot of times we have people walking late at night. I think it is something that we definitely need to take care of. Constituents have been calling me about it. They have been patient."

Buddy Boe stated, "We got the rough estimate for property acquisition and then clearing of the property. When we get that rough number for the number of poles and lights because it is all determined by the height of the pole and how far the light goes Entergy has their formula. Can we call a meeting with you to discuss the entire projects cost?"

Councilman Julien stated, "Would we be able to have the numbers? I want my constituents to know. So would we have that by next meeting?"

Buddy Boe stated, "They needed a few more days. If you want to leave this item on the agenda, we can announce that cost at the next meeting."

Councilman Julien stated, "Please. Thank you."

Councilwoman Usry asked, "Could you also include how many accidents have occurred and how many people have been killed in that area? Can we

get a traffic study?"

Buddy Boe stated, "We will talk to the Sheriff's office for the accident report and we will also get the firm number on the poles."

Councilman Smith stated, "I have a problem when we have a street in St. John Parish that needs lights and we are worried about first of all \$80,000.00. My point being, while we are sitting here waiting to find out what Entergy comes up with we could have taken that \$80,000.00 and already acquired the property so when Entergy comes with their numbers we can just go ahead on and do what we have to do. We have a lighting fund in the parish that should have enough money to cover that \$80,000.00 and anything that Entergy charges us to put those lights up, if I am not mistaken."

Buddy Boe stated, "The reason for some stretches of state highway to not have lighting is that it is a practice of the state and Entergy. I don't want to speak for them but on an undeveloped stretch of a state highway it is not common practice to install lighting. So this isn't a parish road per say it is a state highway but I understand your point."

Councilman Smith asked, "Okay then my next question is have we and if so I need to see the documentation, have we gone to the state and requested that the state light this street up?"

Buddy Boe stated, "That is part of all of this process but the parish would bear the burden if the state doesn't see the necessity. That is what we are asking Entergy to determine the exact cost before we approach the state."

Councilman Smith asked, "Mr. Julien, how long ago did you ask for this?"

Councilman Julien stated, "Approximately fifteen months ago."

Councilman Smith stated, "Okay I could have personally went and put the lights up and strung them in fifteen months. Come on you all. What I am saying is the state hasn't even been contacted. I know if you would have contacted Entergy fifteen months ago we would have had an estimate already. Mr. Boe this isn't directed towards you. I don't want you to think that. This is just a situation that is going on in the parish through administration and I just think it is a bad way to handle situations when you have accidents happening back there. Like Mr. Julien said you have people that are walking along that street anything can happen. If we turn around and get sued by somebody then here we go the money that we could have had to put the lights up now is being used to pay people off."

Buddy Boe stated, "I would like to state that when the original request came in there were ten lights installed on ten poles that didn't have lights. So additional lighting was installed on the street. Now we are talking about a brand new lighting project for the state. It took roughly twelve months for the stretch on Airline for lights to be installed on already existing poles. So this is a long process no matter what to go through the state and Entergy. Once we get that firm number from Entergy we will definitely have a sit down with the state and I will invite Councilman Julien and Mr. Wolfe who represents that

area at the table."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I have been working on lights for Belle Terre Interchange Mr. Julien for three years now. I am still waiting. I have got to the state. That is as far as I have gotten. You haven't gotten that far yet. So it takes a lot longer than you think when you are asking for state monies or our monies. I think I would be remised on my part if I used the parish's money when I was able to use the states money."

Councilman Julien stated, "I will go along with that."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "It just takes the wheels a little longer."

Councilman Julien stated, "It is probably a long process I am sure but they have been without lights much longer than Belle Terre. Belle Terre is lit up.."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Oh I don't know. The exit has been there.."

Councilman Julien stated, "Before Buddy's time but Buddy is the one who gave me his word that he would be working on this and that this thing would be done. So I took him at his word. I think that he is still working on it.."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I am not saying anything against the road and I think that the lights need to be put there but it is an undeveloped area and I do know how the state works because it has been very difficult and I have been working on this for quite sometime."

Councilman Julien stated, "Well what I would like to say is thank you for working for the people down there in your district and I want to thank Mr. Smith for working for my district and Buddy we need those lights. Thank you."

Councilman Lewis stated, "What I wanted to say is I remember about ten or fifteen years ago when we put lights down Barieteria and we did it in house. I remember on Highway 61 we did those big long street lines from one area to the next. We did a little bit at a time until we could get it done. I don't think that is a big job putting lights up. Just do it according to the money you have. Do so many as you go but I think we can start that right away. We shouldn't have to drag that around."

Councilman Smith stated, "That was my point Mr. Lewis. Thank you."

Verdell Kendrick stated, "I live on the West Bank and Hwy 640 we had a fatality there too because we don't have the lighting in that area that is needed. So please consider that area also."

Councilman Lewis stated, "I didn't want to bring that part up. We had lights on 640. We had LP&L run those lights. It cost us so much to burn those lights at that time it was a shame so the parish discontinued those lights and we ended up putting some up by the school back there right were you turn off on 640 and 3127 we put some in there but on that other section I forgot how much LP&L was charging for that but it was some serious money just to burn those lights."

Mike Curtis – Water Quality Update

Mike Curtis, Curtis Environmental, stated, "Our lab works with the parish to monitor and maintain compliance on potable water and sanitary sewer water. I am here to talk to you tonight about the potable water system. The EPA, Department of Health & Hospitals, passed regulations over the last ten years involving the potable water system. We have been monitoring both East Bank and West Bank systems since the early 90's for many different things. The East Bank system we began monitoring quarterly in 2004 for the new stage one requirement, which is one of the EPA regulations. After several quarters of results it was obvious that we were not going to be able to consistently maintain compliance with those regulations. There were two areas that we were out on. Trihalomethanes and Halo acidic acids those are bi-products of the chlorination process. We chlorinate the water to disinfect. One of the bi-products is that you form THM & HAA. The EPA has set currently an eighty part per billion maximum limit for THM and a sixty part per billion maximum limit for HAA. Our system (a graph was provided) the first graph is actually the THM data. Our system has been consistently over the limit. From time to time we would drop below but generally we were above the limit. During the next several years we looked at many ways to obtain compliance. The current NANO filtration system was selected late in '07 & '08 constructed and actually has come on line consistently since November of 2009. We took our first compliance sample in February of 2010. The results of that sample were so good that the system is now in total compliance. We no longer have to publish any letters. We no longer have any problems with THM's or HAA's. What I did was I provided you with the graphs. I actually sent the data to the Department of Health & Hospitals. We do the calculation unofficially. They do the official calculation. We sent the data to them last week. They gave us their numbers back. Their numbers are in a little box on the graph to the right hand side you will see it. That is their official number. We have to be below eighty and below sixty. We are fine. As the system continues to operate the data is so good that we will bring that number even down further."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "In real simple layman terms are you trying to tell me that the drinking water and the quality of the water in LaPlace is safe to drink?"

Mike Curtis stated, "It has always been safe to drink. It meets and exceeds all EPA standards that I am aware of at this time."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "This water right here is out of the tap."

Mike Curtis stated, "I have always drank tap water."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "But you don't care about the color, I care about the color."

Mike Curtis stated, "Believe it or not the color is not a specification. It is not a requirement. The color can actually be brown and that is perfectly okay with EPA."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I understand but those garden tubs that we have in LaPlace don't like that brown water. We like nice pretty clean water."

Mike Curtis stated, "Our water looks very good now."

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pat McTopy – Resolution – R10-13 – A Resolution authorizing the Parish President to enter into an agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) obligating the Parish to pay 10% of the construction cost, and assume all legal liability for, and all maintenance and operating cost, of the subject lighting system

Pat McTopy, Acting Parish President, stated, "The DOTD has asked the parish to reconfirm its commitment for the 10% match on this project which as you said would light up the Belle Terre/I-10 Interchange. So we are asking for the resolution as you stated."

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to approve Resolution R10-13. A resolution authorizing the Parish President to enter into an agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) obligating the Parish to pay 10% of the construction cost, and assume all legal liability for, and all maintenance and operating cost, of the subject lighting system. **WHEREAS**, the Louisiana Department of Transportation will provide for the installation of roadway lighting on BELLE TERRE INTERSTATE EXCHANGE; and **WHEREAS**, prior to installation of said lighting system, the Parish of St. John the Baptist must enter into an agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation which obligates the Parish to pay 10% of the construction cost, and take the grade, and assume all legal liability for, and all maintenance and energy cost, of said system; and **WHEREAS**, in order to proceed with the design of said roadway lighting system, the Department of Transportation and Development requires that the governing authority authorize the Parish President to execute the subject agreement on behalf of the Parish. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council that Acting Parish President Patrick T. McTopy is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, an agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development which obligates the Parish to pay 10% of the construction cost, take the grade, and assume all legal liability for, and all maintenance and operating cost, of the subject lighting system. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that if any portion or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this resolution which can be given without invalid provisions, items or applications and to this end the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable. The motion passed with Councilmen Wolfe & Danny Millet absent.

Pat McTopy – Authorization to sign the cooperative agreement between the Pontchartrain Levee District and St. John the Baptist to participate in the local match for the West Shore Hurricane Protection Levee

Pat McTopy stated, "Let me give a little historical perspective on this request. Way back in the '90's when the Parish and the Corp and the Levee District was contemplating the Hurricane Protection Levee on the East Bank of St. John the parish council approved an agreement between the parish and the levee district for local cost sharing. That agreement stated that the levee district would pay 77 and one half percent of the local share and the parish would pay the remaining 22 and a half percent. Since that time we have been able to renegotiate with the local Pontchartrain Levee District to cut our share to 20% and increase theirs to 80%. So we are asking that we be authorized to sign an agreement amending that original agreement."

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to approve Resolution R10-15. A resolution to execute an agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and the Pontchartrain Levee District. **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has conducted a reconnaissance study of hurricane protection for the West Shore-Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana, and has determined that further study in the nature of a "Feasibility Phase Study" (hereinafter the "Study") is required to assess the extent of Federal interest in participating in a solution to the problem of hurricane protection and flood control in St. John the Baptist Parish; and **WHEREAS**, Section 105 of the Water Resource Development Act of 1986 specifies the cost sharing requirements applicable to the Study; and **WHEREAS**, the local non-Federal portion of the cost of the Study is now estimated to be SEVEN MILLION ONE HUNDRED TWELVE THOUSAND EIGHTY AND NO/100 (\$7,112,080.00) DOLLARS; and **WHEREAS**, neither the Pontchartrain Levee District nor St. John the Baptist Parish is financially capable of bearing one hundred (100%) percent of the total local non-Federal portion of the Study, and had previously agreed to a cost share in a prior agreement between the parties in 1997, setting forth the Pontchartrain Levee District with seventy-seven and 50/100 (77.50%) percent and St. John the Baptist Parish with twenty-two and 50/100 (22.50%) percent of the local non-Federal portion of the project costs; and **WHEREAS**, it is now desired that the cost share be amended to reflect that the Pontchartrain Levee District be responsible for eighty (80%) percent and St. John the Baptist Parish be responsible for twenty (20%) percent of the local non-Federal portion of the project costs; **NOW THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED AS FOLLOWS:** 1. Paragraph 1 of the initial agreement between the Pontchartrain Levee District and St. John the Baptist Parish is hereby amended to provide that the Pontchartrain Levee District shall provide eighty (80%) percent of the local non-Federal portion of the project costs and St. John the Baptist Parish shall provide twenty (20%) percent of the local non-Federal portion of the project costs for the St. John the Baptist Parish Hurricane Protection and Flood Control Study to be conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2. Paragraph 5 of the initial agreement between the Pontchartrain Levee District and St. John the Baptist Parish is hereby amended to provide that in the event St. John the Baptist Parish should choose to provide funding for the Study beyond its twenty (20%) percent obligation, the Pontchartrain Levee District shall repay St. John the Baptist Parish such overpayments upon a schedule to be agreed upon between the Pontchartrain Levee District and St. John the Baptist Parish. 3. All other terms and conditions of the initial agreement between the Pontchartrain Levee District and St. John the Baptist Parish not in conflict herewith shall remain in full force and effect

as originally agree. The motion passed with Councilmen Wolfe and Danny Millet absent.

Pat McTopy – Resolution – R10-14 – A Resolution in support of the inclusion of the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Levee project into the 2010 Water Resources Development Act

Pat McTopy stated, "We are going to have a contingent of representatives from the tri-parish area to go to Washington later this month. We are going to have representatives from St. Charles, St. James and St. John. We are going to have letters of support from the Port Commission and perhaps representation from the Port Commission. We are going to Washington to gain support from our delegation on the Warder Bill. The Warder Bill is a water resource funding bill. We are going to ask our representatives to put hurricane protection dollars into the St. John project. So this is essentially a resolution of the council supporting that request."

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to approve Resolution R10-14. A resolution in support of the inclusion of the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Levee project into the 2010 Water Resources Development Act. **WHEREAS**, WEST SHORE – LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN, LOUISIANA HURRICANE FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT – The project is for hurricane flood protection in the portion of St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. James, and the portion of Ascension Parishes, Louisiana between the Mississippi River and Lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas, at a total cost of \$418,320,000, with an estimated Federal cost of \$271,908,000 and an estimated non-Federal cost of \$146,412,000; and **WHEREAS**, the hurricane protection project is to be separated into three (3) phases. Phase I shall begin at the Bonnet Carre' Upper Guide Levee and continue past Interstate-55 at a total cost of \$86,320,000, with an estimated Federal cost of \$30,198,000.00. Phase II shall begin at Interstate-55 and continue to the Hope Canal Diversion at a total cost of \$172,000,000, with an estimated Federal cost of \$111,800,000 and an estimated non-Federal cost of \$60,200,000. Phase III shall begin at the Hope Canal Diversion and continue to the McElroy Pump Station at a total cost of \$160,000,000, with an estimated Federal cost of \$104,000,000 and an estimated non-Federal cost of \$56,000,000; and **WHEREAS**, Phase I of the hurricane protection project is to be authorized immediately subject to final report; and **WHEREAS**, Pontchartrain Levee District is authorized to proceed with the non-federal portion in advance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to perform engineering and real estate work. The cost of engineering and real estate work will be eligible for credits toward the non-federal cost of the project. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed. The motion passed with Councilmen Wolfe and Danny Millet absent.

Paul Oncale – LNO – A Letter of No Objection on behalf of Mr. William Guste III, to reclaim land to the 1926 Meander Line, as allowed by Act 645 of 1978, State of Louisiana Water Bottom Management. Property is described as Lot 1 in Section 8, Township 11, Range 8 East, located on Gary Road in Frenier

Paul Oncale, Director of Public Safety, stated, "This is another piece of property back on Lake Pontchartrain by Peavine. The property owner is requesting to reclaim it. The approval has to be done by the

Department of Natural Resources and the state. One of the requirements is a letter of no objection from the parish. After reviewing the application administration recommends approval of this letter of no objection."

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to approve a LNO - A Letter of No Objection on behalf of Mr. William Guste III, to reclaim land to the 1926 Meander Line, as allowed by Act 645 of 1978, State of Louisiana Water Bottom Management. Property is described as Lot 1 in Section 8, Township 11, Range 8 East, located on Gary Road in Frenier. The motion passed with Councilmen Wolfe & Danny Millet absent.

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just want to remind everybody that census's are being received in the mail. Please complete the census that was sent to you. It is very important for the parish that we get this information in. Thank you."

Councilman Smith stated, "On April 3rd, 2010, the Saturday before Easter, St. John Parish is having Easter in the Parks again. It is going to be from 11:00 AM until. All children ages 2-12 throughout the parish are invited to come and enjoy. They will be at Ezekiel Jackson Park, Belle Point Park, Cambridge Park, Hwy. 51 Park and the West Bank Park Complex. So everybody come out and enjoy the Easter Egg hunt. They will also be at the Stephanie Wilking Park."

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Pat McTopy stated, "You know we had some friends over to the house a couple of weeks ago and we were talking about the water and they told me that they don't drink it. They are from LaPlace. I looked at them and said you know we have the reverse osmosis system and it has been working wonderfully for the last three months. The water is of great quality and in fact it is the same treatment process that the bottled water companies use. The only difference is that we are required to add a small amount of disinfectants. Other than that it is the same treatment process. I wanted the public to know and I felt it important that Mr. Curtis give that report to know that they can drink the water. They don't have to spend twenty to thirty dollars a month on bottled water. The water in LaPlace is safe. It meets all standards and it is refreshing. I want to thank the council again tonight for the support you have given us in moving our parish forward and I will recap very briefly the items that we have done tonight. We approved the advertising of the East Bank gymnasium at Regala. We are moving ahead on several fronts with our sewer line repairs. We are going to be bidding our priority two water tank repairs. It is important that these towers be maintained periodically otherwise they go to heck. We are evaluating two coastal protection projects totaling several million dollars and then finally after many years I am very optimistic that we are going to be successful and get funding for a hurricane protection levee. That is so important for the people of St. John Parish and it has been inactive for so long and with the help of this council we can hopefully make it a reality in a short time frame."

Councilman Smith stated, "One other item before we close, my wife and

daughter were in a car accident on US 61 a few days back and Mr. Oncale the LaPlace Fire Department came to the scene. So did the Sheriff's Department. I know a lot of times we hear complaints about how bad our entities are doing or what we are not doing. I just wanted to let you know Mr. Oncale and the public know that I appreciated how professional they operated and everything that they did to make my family feel as comfortable as possible at the time of the accident. So I wanted to thank you Mr. Oncale and ask you to please send those regards on to the fire department and I wanted to thank the Sheriff's Department also."

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

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

Cable Franchise Agreement

Charles Julien – Shread Kuyrkendall Contract

Any and all pending legal matters

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:10 PM, Councilman Lee moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilmen Wolfe & Danny Millet absent.

/s/Ronnie Smith
COUNCIL CHAIR

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary