

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2011**  
**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 Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:** Haston Lewis, Councilman District I, Raydel Morris, Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Steve Lee, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B, Danny Millet, Councilman District II, Darnel C. Usry, Councilwoman District V, Cheryl Millet, Councilwoman District VII

**ABSENT:** Jaclyn Hotard, Ronnie Smith & Charles Julien

Councilman Lewis led the Prayer and Councilwoman Usry led the Pledge.

Legal Counsels William O'Reagan and Kerry Brown were present.

**Natalie Robottom – Proclamation – “Women’s History Month”**

Natalie Robottom, Parish President, stated, *“Whereas, March is nationally recognized as “Women’s History Month, the week of March 8<sup>th</sup> chosen as the focal point of this observance; and Whereas, it is a time to reflect on the extraordinary accomplishments of women and honor their role in shaping the course of our Nation’s history; and Whereas, today is a chance to pay tribute to ordinary women throughout the world, a day to remind us that while enormous progress has been made, there is still work to be done before women achieve true equality; and Whereas, women have reached heights that our mothers and grandmothers might have only imagined; and Whereas, women comprise nearly half of our workforce and the majority of students in our colleges and universities; and Whereas, women scale the skies as astronauts, expand our economy as entrepreneurs and business leaders, and serve our country at the highest levels of government and our armed forces; and Whereas, in America, we must lead by example in protection women’s rights and supporting their empowerment, I understand, my role as the first woman Parish President in St. John the Baptist Parish and the first African-American is a perfect example to women today and in the future; Now, Therefore, I, Natalie Robottom, Parish President in conjunction with St. John the Baptist Parish Council Members ask to please join us in celebrating the month of March as Women’s History Month and let us continue to carry forward the work of the women who came before us and ensure our daughters and granddaughters that there are no limits on their dreams and no obstacles to their achievements.”*

**Consent Agenda**

**Items:** Approval of Minutes February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011, Regular Meeting; Resolutions – Annual Sewer Plant Audits (R11-05 through R11-11)

**MOTION:** Councilman Morris moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011, Regular Meeting; Resolutions – Annual Sewer Plant Audits (R11-05 through R11-11). The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilmen Smith & Julien absent.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**11-06** (Tabled 2-22-11)(Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending Section 105-25 of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, as follows: Residential swimming pools shall be enclosed by a fence with a minimum height of six feet. (C. Millet)

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to remove Ordinance 11-06 from the table. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilmen Smith & Julien absent.

Councilwoman Millet asked that Ordinance 11-06 be removed from the agenda.

**11-08** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval to further extend the valid period of time of Conditional Subdivision Approval for an additional twelve (12) months for Monica Estates, Lots 1 through 51, located on Red Barn Road, situated in Sections 10 and 11, T-11-S, R-6-E, Garyville, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (M. Henderson)

**MOTION:** Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Morris seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-08. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilmen Smith & Julien absent.

**11-09** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval to further extend the valid period of time of Conditional Subdivision Approval for an additional twelve (12) months for Perle DeMillet Subdivision, Lots 1 through 40, located on South Church Street, in Section 15, T-11-S, R-7-E, Garyville, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (M. Henderson)

**MOTION:** Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Morris seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-09. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilmen Smith & Julien absent.

**11-10** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval to further extend the valid period of time of Conditional Subdivision Approval for an additional twelve (12) months for Carriage Plantation Subdivision, Lots 1 through 16, located on Main Street, in Section 27, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (M. Henderson)

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-10. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilmen Smith & Julien absent.

**11-11** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval to further extend the valid period of time of Conditional Subdivision Approval for an additional twelve (12) months for Sugar Lane Estates Subdivision, Phase VII, Lots G1 through G36, located on Dufresne Drive, Section 27 & 53, T-12-S, R-18-E, Wallace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (M. Henderson)

**MOTION:** Councilman Morris moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-11. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilmen Smith & Julien absent.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

There were no ordinances to be introduced at this time.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Lee stated, *"The finance committee met at 6:15 this evening to discuss four separate items delivered to us by the administration. I would ask at this time that one of my fellow council members make a motion to ratify the actions taken by the finance committee."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Lewis moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to take the bids for the Reverse Osmosis (RO) Membrane Filters – Booster Station #3 under advisement, approved to grant a Certificate of Substantial Completion for the West Bank Park Improvements Project, approved to grant administration authorization to add Angelic Sutherland as a check signer, and approved to grant administration authorization to renew the Code Enforcement Officer contract with Lewis Grady at a rate of \$1,750.00 per month. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilmen Smith & Julien absent.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

**Haston Lewis – Update on Polling Place change from the Edgard Courthouse to the Wallace Fire Station – Ordinance 10-19 – approved 7/27/10**

Councilman Lewis stated, *"I talked to South Central. In some kind of way they dropped the ball on that. I did talk to them. They said they will straighten it out in forty days. So that should be alright."*

**Haston Lewis – Update on Cardinal Street overlay**

Councilman Lewis stated, *"I would like Mr. Savoie to bring us up to date on Cardinal Street."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"He is welcome to come up. I can address part of that. Mr. Savoie has been tasked with developing a set of specifications for all of our in-house road projects. The specs for Cardinal are completed. We do have a new asphalt contract with Coastal and Mr. Savoie may be able to update you on how soon they will be here but we have also started working on a list of priority streets. Some were carried over from last year for the end of the year and we will be getting with you all probably at our workshop to make sure that roads in your area are included in the priority list but Mr. Savoie has taken the time to develop the specifications for some of the existing road problems and we will need to get estimates based on the new contract with Coastal to begin those projects. Cardinal Street is our first project Mr. Lewis scheduled to be done through the asphalt contract."*

C.J. Savoie, Parish Engineer, stated, *"As you can see I do have the*

plans right here for the Cardinal Street project and the others."

Councilman Lewis asked, "Chuck, why I asked about five or six months ago, Mrs. Robottom was there, and we promised them we were going to do the street? It is a real busy street and nothing has been done. So you know I am not taking that too well. I want a date on it."

C.J. Savoie stated, "Well I did talk to the contractor today and I asked him to kind of give me a ball park figure as to when exactly or even about when he would be able to start work. He said he is in the middle of a state project but he said his first break would be probably in about a month and he would come in and start the base work on several of these streets."

Councilman Lewis asked, "Just keep me up to date on this. I am getting calls on this and I don't need all these calls."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Mr. Lewis, you and I were both at that meeting and Cardinal is the first asphalt street that we are going to complete."

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Haston Lewis – (Carry over 2-22-11) Override Planning and Zoning for a denial for trailer placement for Lori Robertson, 447 Capt. G. Bourgeois in LaPlace**

Councilman Lewis stated, "I would like to carry this item over to the next agenda."

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Natalie Robottom/Julia Remonet – Authorization to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with British Petroleum (BP) in securing an additional \$30 million for tourism recovery efforts from the impact of the Deepwater Horizon explosion and subsequent Oil Spill allocating \$54,738.99 towards St. John Parish and authorizes Jay Tusa with the River Parishes Tourist Commission the authority to act on behalf of St. John the Baptist Parish – Resolution R11-12**

Natalie Robottom stated, "I want to apologize and I think we forwarded it out to you earlier today. This item was represented incorrectly. It should have been a delegation of authority resolution. The memorandum of understanding is actually what the state and BP for the \$30 million dollars. Our portion or allocation is \$54,738.99. What we are requesting is approval of a resolution to allow Mr. Tusa with the River Parishes Tourist Commission to act on our behalf to secure those funds. We have been working on a regional plan which was a stipulation in the grant allocation that there is a plan to improve or help with tourism recovery. We have included some very specific items for St. John Parish but we have also addressed a regional attempt to get tourism back to the area of course that was based on the oil spill and some of the negative publicity that we received. We will continue to work closely with the Tourist Commission to make sure that not only St. John is represented but the entire region in this tourist push."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Morris seconded the

motion to approve Resolution R11-12. **WHEREAS**, the State of Louisiana has executed a Memorandum of Understanding with British Petroleum (BP), securing an additional \$30 million for tourism recovery efforts from the impact of the April 20, 2010 Deepwater Horizon explosion and subsequent oil spill, and; **WHEREAS**, the Parish of St. John the Baptist has been allocated \$54,738.99 to put toward endeavors to increase tourism in the St. John the Baptist Parish area, and; **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the St. John the Baptist Parish Council does hereby authorize Jay Tusa, Executive Director with the River Parishes Tourist Commission authority to act on behalf of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilmen Smith & Julien absent.

#### **CORRESPONDANCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS**

There were no correspondences or council briefs.

Councilman Morris excused himself from the meeting at 6:49 PM.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Obviously I have a few things to cover of course starting out with letting everyone know that we had a very cooperative effort in sponsoring all of the Mardi Gras activities. We hope everyone had a safe Mardi Gras holiday but it takes a lot of planning and effort on a lot of people's parts. Obviously, the Lions Club and Towapahsah worked really hard to prepare for those parades but it also took different departments. Our Sheriff's Office, our parish employees and we actually had some of our inmates helping with the clean up after. So we want to thank everybody who participated in the preparation and the clean up after and for those who actually had an opportunity to ride in the parade. I think everything was successful despite the rain we had on Saturday. We are happy to announce that the St. John Parish website is up and running. We invite everyone to browse the new site and sign up to receive our latest news releases. While the new site is live we are continuing to add information and some additional changes will be forthcoming. So we are going to ask for patience while we work through that but we also want feed back. If there is something missing or something difficult we are going to continue to work on that but please take an opportunity to go on and visit the new website. Monday I was fortunate enough to attend the ground breaking ceremony for the New Corp Steel Mill in St. James Parish. The initial investment is \$750 million dollars for a direct reduced iron facility in phase one. Overall the investment is going to be \$3 billion dollars to the region. This phase will create 150 permanent jobs with an average annual salary of \$75,000.00 plus benefits. During peak construction there will be 500 jobs directly created. St. John is working very closely with St. James officials and the Louisiana Department of Economic Development to make sure that our residents and companies are prepared to participate in the project. Just a reminder our Health & Human Services Department has moved temporarily to 975 Cambridge Drive which is next to the WIA building while renovations to their building is being completed. That should take about four months. Their phone numbers are the same. They can be reached at 985-652-9569 or 985-536-4955. As we said we were fortunate enough to get another site. The construction is anticipated to be completed in four months and we are looking forward to a very nice*

building afterwards. We ordered additional vials of life for those who attended the meet the pharmacist event. Those vials will be available within the next couple of weeks and they will be located at the East and West Bank Senior Citizens Center, the Percy Hebert Building, the Health & Human Services Office again at 975 Cambridge Drive and we will also have some available through our fire departments. We ask that if you weren't able to get them at our event that you still acquire them and get your pharmacist to help you. This is a very important document should you be non-responsive or an emergency occurs you will have that vial on your refrigerator or somewhere in your home so emergency personal will know exactly what your medical condition is. Last week or the week before I attended a conference with the Corps of Engineers, it was there 2011 partnering conference. We were fortunate enough to have the LaFourche Levee Basin and the Pontchartrain District there as well with other elected officials. The primary concern was the time it takes to get a project completed with the Corps. So we discussed some possible policy changes to help us cut through the chase. The organization of PACE which is Parishes against Coastal Erosion is gearing back up. There is some concern about the funding available for coastal erosion and for flood protection. So we will continue to work very closely with the Corp of Engineers. I do want to note and probably one of our Council members is there, the Riverside boys basketball team will compete this Friday in Lafayette for the state championship. The first game will be against Episcopal High on Friday at 1:00 PM and the winner of that game will play in the championship game on Saturday and of course we want to wish them the best of luck and look forward to them bringing home another state championship. The Frisco Festival is this weekend. It is Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 to 5:00 on the grounds of the San Francisco Plantation in Garyville. There are foods, music, arts & crafts throughout the weekend. The entry fee is \$5.00 for adults and free for children and you can visit [SanFranciscoPlantation.org](http://SanFranciscoPlantation.org) for more information and to sign up for some of their events. Our fire department will host a car wash this Saturday at the Donut Hole, 421 W. Airline Hwy from 8:00 until. All car washes are free, donations are being accepted for relay for life and they will also be featured servers at New Orleans Hamburger & Seafood on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:00 PM. A portion of those sales and tips will go towards relay for life. A reminder to the council, GNO Inc. annual meeting is next Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 until 1:00. The theme is Greater New Orleans at the inflection point and if you are interested please contact Joy so that we can make sure to reserve tickets for you and also a reminder we have scheduled and are going to forward you an agenda for our workshops next week. It is fairly lengthy. We will get it to you in advance and we will try and get through it as quickly as possible but there are several things of importance that we need to make sure that everyone here gets the information at the same time."

There was no executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

Cable Franchise Agreement

Any and all pending legal matters

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 6:54 PM, Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilmen Smith, Julien & Morris absent.

/s/Cheryl Millet  
COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary