

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>, 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, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 Perrilloux led the Prayer. Councilman Snyder led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Jeff Perilloux and Vercell Fiffie were present.

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - Mayor's Day of Recognition of National Service**

Nick Auck, Commissioner for Volunteer Louisiana, and Jessica Vermilyea, Louisiana VOAD Manager Consultant, were present and AMERICORPS St. Louis was there via Skype. Natalie Robottom thanked them for their help and assistance during and after Hurricane Isaac and for still being a presence in St. John Parish.

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - 9-1-1 Telecommunicator Appreciation Week**

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for 9-1-1 Telecommuicator Appreciation week and she and the council thanked the 911 team for the job that they do.

**Natalie Robottom - Presentation - Riverside Academy Boys Basketball State Champions**

Coach Timmy Byrd and the Riverside Academy Boys Basketball State Champions were present at the meeting. Natalie Robottom presented them with a plaque for their accomplishments and she and the council acknowledged the great team and coaches for their state championship title.

**Natalie Robottom - Presentation - West St. John Girls Basketball State Runners-Up**

The WSJ Girls couldn't be here tonight this item will be carried over.

## **Consent Agenda**

**Items:** Approval of Minutes March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - SJA Run - Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - 8:30 AM; Resolutions - Annual Sewer Plant Audits (R13-13 through R13-19)

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - SJA Run - Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - 8:30 AM; Resolutions - Annual Sewer Plant Audits (R13-13 through R13-19). The motion passed unanimously.

## **PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**13-06** (Public Hearing Held) 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)

Vince Lucia, Finance Manager, stated, *"This ordinance reflects the final 2012 budget amendments based on actual revenues and expenditures. The 2012 audit is currently underway to finalize these numbers and we anticipate coming before the council with final amendments in June. Administration recommends approval."*

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"Yes I have asked that we be given a synopsis of what the budget amendments were and we have not received that and because I haven't gotten it and since I didn't receive it I am voting no and that is my only reason not that I am against the amendment. I am voting no because I have asked and asked and didn't receive what I asked for so I am voting no."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-06. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 nay (Millet).

## **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

There were no ordinances to be introduced at this time.

## **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 Madere seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed unanimously.

## **DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

Torri Buckles stated, *"I will be brief Councilman Smith asked for an update on the status of the Farmer's Market on the West Bank. If you recall in January we received a letter from the USDA and there were 13*

requirements that we needed to meet both engineering and building requirements. All of those have been fulfilled. The largest requirement was actually that we had to hire an engineering firm to do a geotechnical report which basically tests the soil and the conditions of the property that we are going to build on that has also been completed and submitted to USDA. As of last week we received a response from them that they are currently reviewing it and that we should have a response from them soon."

Councilman Gauff asked, "If you don't mind when I spoke with you earlier I was telling you it just seems like this process is dragging on and on. Would you please explain to everyone that even though we have the grant that the process really didn't start until and give the time table so that it doesn't seem like we have been sitting here for two years with this Farmer's Market and not doing anything so if you don't mind would you explain that to them please?"

Torri Buckles stated, "The actual project timeline did not begin until May of 2012 and that is when the letter of condition between the USDA and St. John Parish was signed. Basically the letter of condition lays out the who, what, when and where of the project scope and the details and it was actually the first time that the administration, the USDA, our parish engineers, our capital projects department actually came together as a complete body to discuss everything. There were a series of meetings and activity that took place prior to May 2012 but to be perfectly honest the only two things that came out of those things were that a grant was written and a grant was awarded but the actual project time line did not begin until May of 2012. So we understand everyone's concerns and we are equally anxious to get this project off of the ground but because this project is being funded through the USDA we are under their timeline. They basically tell us when we can move and even though it is great to have the funds that is actually probably one of the down sides to having a funding partner because you have to work by their rules. What I can tell you is that since May of 2012 between all the departments that I named earlier we all worked together very well with one another and we are confident that the project will move forward. We are just waiting for them to give us the approval to actually move forward with the project."

Councilman Smith asked, "Do you think that we will have something in time for this season?"

Torri Buckles stated, "I can't promise that. Again we have to work under the direction of the USDA and I would hate to even speculate about a possible time line. I can give you a time line once they give us the approval to actually move forward with the construction of the building because from that point I believe our engineer said it would be 6 months maximum from the time that they give us the okay."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Since we don't have a time line is there anything else that we can do to get the people's products on the property over there? Have we looked into something else like throwing a tent up there and running some electrical wire to it and go with it? It sounds out dated but it is something right now those people are under the bridge sometime. I am just trying to think of something that we can do in the interim to help them out a little bit. Have we looked into anything like that?"

Torri Buckles stated, "We have discussed some alternatives internally. We also had a conversation with Councilman Smith and we were advised that we should focus on constructing the building and any temporary structures or tents was not preferred but if the actions of the council dictate otherwise than we will of course look at that."

**Jaclyn Hotard/Lennix Madere - Cole's Landing/Various Locations - Sewerage Back-up**

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I actually placed this item on the agenda and I sent an email yesterday but we have been having a problem this one specifically and Mr. Madere may have some other ones in the Cole's Landing Subdivision that date back to 2010 I know I have placed a call into the 911 system a couple of times this year and last year and there were some in 2011 and 2010. I did read the administrative report and I am pleased to see that there is a solution going forward and that was the reason for the placement of this item."

Virgil Rayneri, Director of Utilities, stated, "Problems with the Belle Pointe Plant and failures of the lift station near River Pointe in Cole's Landing have resulted in 4 overflows since Hurricane Isaac. One call was received last week and another yesterday. There were 2 calls in 2010 and 2 in 2012. Previously, work was completed to address wastewater overflows coming from the manhole cover. Assessment of the recent problem revealed aging pumps and a flapper valve. The flapper valve has been replaced, 2 replacement pumps have been ordered, and the suction line will also be replaced. The repairs should be completed within the next 4 weeks. I want to recognize the 911 department they do tremendous work for the Utilities Department on the off hours and over the weekend and we really appreciate their support."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you. So let me ask you this after that repair is done do you for see any other problems with the lift station that would cause the sewer to back up anymore?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "Well the mechanical systems you are always going to have a possibility of a failure but everything in the system is going to be new but power failures and things of that nature are going to happen."

Councilman Madere stated, "Just one other question concerning that and I understand that you can always have a mechanical failure even after you repair something something else can go wrong. I just wanted to assure this young lady and I think it was mentioned to me and I don't know if it is the same young lady but it was someone that said their property is at the end of the line and that she may have that recurrent problem. Is she going to have that all the time if something goes wrong?"

Reed Alexander, Utilities Manager, stated, "If you are going to have a mechanical failure in the system the water is going to seek the least resistance and it is going to be at the end of the line and unfortunately that house is at the end of the line and it will back up at that home."

Councilman Madere asked, "So whenever something happens over there she

*can bet or if there is a mechanical problem somewhere else?"*

*Reed Alexander stated, "It isn't necessarily a mechanical problem it could be a clogged manhole or main line, it could be several issues and like I said it will back up to least resistance which is the end of the line."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "You know I think that is what she wanted to know about."*

*Reed Alexander stated, "It has never backed up in a home."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "Okay one other thing I may need you to ride out there with me I called you the other day about E. 17<sup>th</sup> Street the last manhole in the back and the guy was telling me that he didn't have any problems until they came and repaired a line somewhere in the field opposite his house and he said that since that repair has taken place he has been having back flow of sewer. So you may want to look into that to see what is causing that because previously there was no problem."*

*Reed Alexander stated, "Reserve is an aged system and I think actually tonight you all actually awarded a line point repair contract that is all in Reserve if I am not mistaken and hopefully that will take care of most of the issues in Reserve. I & I is a big issue that you are never going to repair it all. It is just not going to happen especially in Reserve it is old terra cotta piping and you will never fix everything. I didn't get the address I just got the location but if I could get an address from you I will go out there and take a look at it and put it into the work order system."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "Okay just one thing I never say never we are going to fix it eventually, I may not be around but we are going to solve it because those terra cotta pipes can't stay that way forever so somewhere we will make a change."*

*Virgil Rayneri stated, "I think you are aware that we are trying very hard to do that because the infiltration is a serious problem."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "Oh I know but eventually they are going to have to do something."*

*Virgil Rayneri stated, "One more thing, this lift station is listed on our telemetry system upgrade which will be alerting us of any problems in the station which will make us respond to it much quicker in this area."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "Do we have a maintenance schedule for these pumps and the flapper valves that we do periodically and what is it?"*

*Reed Alexander stated, "Yes there is a list of what we do every day when we check the lift stations. The particular pumps that are located over there you can't do a visual inspection on the suction flapper it is actually hidden behind a piece of the pump so you actually have to take an I&E and a suction box off to be able to inspect it and once you do that you might as well change it because you are going to ruin the gaskets. So instead of ruining it we wait until we have to look at it."*

Virgil Rayneri stated, "We have crews that check these lift stations everyday but you can check it today or this afternoon and then a belt might break or something like that and we are not aware of it."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I was just talking about things like seal leaks and pipe erosion or things like that because it seems like those are the types of problems that we are having here it just got old and isn't working right anymore. So I was just wondering about us having a program in place. So we do this once a week or so?"

Reed Alexander stated, "We check lift stations every day and once on the weekend."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I just wanted to make sure we had some issues in Homewood also and I spoke with you about that also so just make sure that the sewer issues in Homewood are addressed also."

#### **Art Smith - Pleasure Bend Fire Station**

Councilman Smith stated, "This fire station has been built, there is a fire engine in there and we just don't have the man power to open it and since I have been on the council I have been trying to get this thing opened and before and I guess I just want administration to explain to me why we can't open it. What is the problem? The people back there deserve fire protection. They deserve to have someone back there that is going to man the fire station and I just need an answer."

Jobe' Boucvalt stated, "Pleasure Bend has been trying to get volunteers and I have a note here to read that Mr. Lumar wanted me to read he said I wish someone would truly tell me why the volunteers stopped coming they had a couple of them and he said that the last person that came he thought they finally had a good candidate and the gentleman stayed and talked and seemed to want to make things work and Mr. Lumar was setting up to have someone let him drive the truck from the station on Tuesdays to Edgard so he could learn how to drive the truck and get him qualified so they would have a volunteer there but the guy never came back. Mr. Lumar also stated that they had another maybe one or two that came for a couple of trainings and never came back and they don't have any clue as to why they didn't come back and nobody wants to volunteer from Pleasure Bend. We have to have a volunteer in Pleasure Bend and you all have training every Tuesday and they would love to have somebody but until they get a volunteer to come and take the training that is where we stand."

Rondell Wesley, Deputy Chief, stated, "We had went to Pleasure Bend and actually held a training there. We advertise the training will be at the fire station at Pleasure Bend and no one showed up and this was like two weeks prior. We have had a few people from Pleasure Bend come for training and they maybe come for 2 or 3 trainings and then they don't come back and like Chief Lumar wrote the last guy that came he came for one night and I thought myself that he was very interested in joining the fire department and we haven't heard from him since."

Councilman Smith stated, "So I guess my problem is that these people back there even though there is no one that wants to volunteer but we have all the equipment back there and no one is manning it."

Rondell Wesley stated, "Someone is manning it. When we get called out we are going back there. We also have South Vacherie that also responds."

Councilman Smith stated, "That is St. James Parish."

Rondell Wesley stated, "We all work together."

Councilman Smith stated, "I guess what I am looking for is someone back there to work even if we have to take someone from Edgard and put them back there. We have this equipment sitting back there and we need to man this fire station that is all I am asking is that we man the fire station back there whether it be someone from Reserve or LaPlace or Edgard or wherever but we need to man this fire station. I know you have tried your best but it is a problem that is bigger than you right now and we need to find a way to solve that problem."

Jobe' Boucvalt stated, "We understand it is a different situation from Pleasure Bend but it is like we have volunteers from LaPlace they are in LaPlace and we have them in Reserve and in Edgard it is tough to ask a volunteer to go live in Pleasure Bend. The people who live in Edgard respond to those stations because they live in that area. We really need to get a volunteer from Pleasure Bend to man the station and we do have the mutual aid agreement with South Vacherie and they get there very quickly. The amount of calls we had one fire call since 2009 and South Vacherie goes and it isn't that West Side Fire Department doesn't respond, they respond and they get there it is just the mutual aid agreement with South Vacherie is there to have quick response until these guys can get there. I am sure that Mr. Lumar and Mr. Wesley here will continue to do the best they can to find a volunteer for Pleasure Bend because pretty much that is where we are at. If nobody volunteers we really don't have anybody."

Councilman Smith asked, "Don't we have paid fire fighters?"

Jobe' Boucvalt stated, "Yes we have paid on the West Bank, in Garyville and we have one in Reserve and three in LaPlace. As we all know the paid budget has been in deficit spending for many years and we have really worked hard to address that deficit spending and as it is right now the LaPlace Volunteer Fire Department that needs to build a new fire station has been gathering money to try to keep our fire station in LaPlace open and also the West Side Fire Department budget they have a good fund balance but they are trying to pay off a fire engine and they have a few notes that they have to meet and they cannot afford to pay more paid firemen. This is the money that we have and we are working within our budgets and they have one paid station and that is it that is the only money that they have for that."

Councilman Smith asked, "So my question is now we have this equipment sitting back there and we have to depend on South Vacherie to come and fight the fire for us. Do they come with their own equipment or do they use our equipment?"

Rondell Wesley stated, "They respond with their own equipment and we are responding also."

Councilman Smith asked, "So by the time you guys get there the fire is over with."

Rondell Wesley stated, "Not necessarily it all depends on the fire."

Councilman Smith stated, "I guess my problem with that is that we have all of this equipment sitting back there, nobody is manning it and we are spending money and we find money for everything else. We have paid fire fighters on staff. Why can't we pay somebody to sit back there at Pleasure Bend?"

Rondell Wesley stated, "That would be at least an additional over \$300,000.00 to \$600,000.00 just to do that. We don't have the funding for it."

Councilman Smith asked, "\$600,000.00 for the volunteer fire fighter?"

Rondell Wesley stated, "No he was talking about 24 hours paid right?"

Councilman Smith stated, "\$300,000.00 to \$600,000.00 is a big discrepancy to sustain the fire department."

Rondell Wesley stated, "Yes you have three shifts, six people with salaries, benefits, training, equipment it all adds up yes."

Councilman Smith stated, "I don't want to belabor the point but it is something that I am going to stay on until we get this station manned because people are beginning to build houses back there and we need to have that fire station back there manned."

Rondell Wesley stated, "We will continue to work on getting volunteers for that station. We always have our door open. They are always welcome to train with us like tonight at our Edgard station 91 it is just that no one has been coming and we have been looking for volunteers."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Mr. Wesley or Mr. Boucvalt nobody from the paid or the volunteer could maybe go back there once or twice a week and take the equipment out just to make sure everything is working, spend the day back there and then come back?"

Rondell Wesley stated, "Yes the equipment is checked every Monday."

#### **Art Smith - Update District I**

Councilman Smith stated, "I see Mrs. Robottom wrote that she would be happy to sit with me and discuss all the projects so that is sufficient."

#### **Art Smith - Canal dredging on the West Bank**

Councilman Smith stated, "This is something that Mr. Kendrick and I have talked about and canal dredging is a problem, not only on the West Bank but in the parish as a whole. I am just trying to get a handle on where we are in that process."

Brian Nunes, Director of Public Works, stated, "Specifically on the West Bank which is what the item was for we have coordinated with the



engineering firm to get us all the permits that we need for the canals. My department has been working with the Lafourche Levee Basin district. Our initial intent was to have them do the dredging for us but their equipment is too large, it is 18 to 20 feet wide and that won't fit in those canals so we have gone ahead and evaluated all of the canals and prioritized what needs to be done most urgently. We determined that the Ben Canal between Castle Drive and 3127 is the most urgent need since that one is already permitted we are going ahead and putting together a bid package to get a contractor back there to clean that one out. As far as the rest of the canals we are going to continue to monitor those and we will schedule maintenance work when needed."

Councilman Smith stated, "There are a couple of canals that I know like Moll Canal in the front that needs to be cleaned, it is really bad."

Brian Nunes stated, "I don't have the list of all of the canals in front of me but I think that one was permitted as well but I am going to verify that and if that is something that is determined that needs to be cleaned we can easily either back pack on the bid package that we are putting together now or make a separate one for it."

Councilman Smith asked, "So Mr. Nunes when can we see some progress being made? Can you give me a time table?"

Brian Nunes stated, "For the Ben Canal we have already started moving on it, we already researched some prices for it as for as renting a machine to get in there and do it ourselves. We do have prices on that and prices for operators so we can move on that one alone within the next month probably. We want to put together a bid package to do a bunch of canals at one it is going to take time to put the specifications together and cross sections and maybe some survey work."

Councilman Smith asked, "So you are saying 30, 60 or 90 days?"

Brian Nunes stated, "For the Ben Canal we can get out there sure it will be easy to that one we already priced it that is why I say it is easy. We can hire an operator, rent the machine and get out there within the next month."

Councilman Smith asked, "So within the next 30 days I should see some progress being made?"

Brian Nunes stated, "On Ben Canal yes we can do that for you."

Councilman Smith asked, "What about Moll and the rest of the canals?"

Brian Nunes stated, "If we are going to do a bunch of them together I would prefer to put together a bid package because it would work a lot better to have a contractor come in as opposed to renting this one machine. The machine might cost us I want to say \$1,000.00 a day and then we have an operator that charges on top of that so a lot of times if we are doing more than one it is better to just get a contractor in and have them do it all instead of paying all the rental cost it is cheaper to just put it as a package."

## **Art Smith - Pleasure Bend - Recreation Department**

Councilman Smith stated, "This one involves kid's recreation back there. This is a growing community. I see the Fields are here and they are building some homes back there and in order to be able to sell the homes that they are building these kids need things to do. So I am looking for the Recreation Department to extend their services back there."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Do we have anyone to speak on behalf of the Recreation Department or who is filling in in the interim?"

Theresa Rodgers stated, "Mrs. Poche could not be here tonight but it is my understanding that when the meeting was held on the West Bank to receive community input on recreational needs that only one resident spoke about the need for additional recreation in the Pleasure Bend area. It is a great area. We know that there is a lot of recreational boating and fishing that is a way of life there. I hear what you are saying about the children. There are very few children that live there and I think that we are actually trying to get numbers from the school board because they have a hard number on how many children actually live in Pleasure Bend and go to school in St. James. It is something that we are going to keep a watch on. As you say there are developments that are progressing very well. It is a great area but there was not a cry at the meeting on the West Bank that could be because the meetings were geared to additional input on already existing parks but it is something that we will keep a watch on."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Mrs. Rodgers with the builder back there maybe they have some property or something that we could look at and open a park for the kids back there that is why I keep stressing so hard that we need a Recreation Director that way they can concentrate on things like this and it would relieve you all to do what you need to do. We have to get a Recreation Director to start focusing on these problems and the kids of Pleasure Bend do deserve some type of park or something to play in along with the recreation boats and stuff but they need something back there. What do we need to do to look into this?"

Theresa Rodgers stated, "I would say one thing would be to look at the budget and find money for procuring any land that might be identified for a park and of course we would help with it but in addition to the land we also need to look at the cost of putting playground equipment on it not just the purchase of the equipment but the cost of installation of the equipment."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "That is something probably with grants too right, recreational grants?"

Theresa Rodgers stated, "We have not been successful and I can tell you that other places have not either in getting a lot of funding from grant sources. Usually if you find a grant source there is at least a 50% match and there are a lot of constraints as to what they might be looking for to come in for example we looked and this isn't what is being talked about for this area but we looked at a Mountain Dew grant but it was exclusive to a skate park and with the match and they wanted to dictate where it was located and some other parameters that didn't

*work out. Kaboom does some grant funding but there are restrictions and there is a match that has to be made but certainly we are open to any of that but a lot of it boils down to budgeting and money."*

*Councilman Perrilloux stated, "We are going to stay on top of it with Mr. Smith and the residents of Pleasure Bend so we can get something for those kids and definitely continue to push for a Recreation Director."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "Have we ever looked into didn't they have someone back there that wanted to donate us some land? Have we ever looked into that Mr. Smith? We don't need to call any names but I was back there at one time with Mr. Smith and one guy said he would donate some land for a recreational area for the kids."*

*Councilman Smith stated, "Yes Mr. Snyder you are correct and Mr. Fields is here tonight and he is the gentleman that was donating the land for the recreation."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "Is he the developer?"*

*Councilman Smith stated, "Yes he is the developer."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "There was another guy who owned a lot of land back there."*

*Councilman Smith stated, "Yes J.B. Falgoust."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "That's him did we ever look into that? We brought this up before."*

*Theresa Rodgers asked, "The donation of land in Pleasure Bend? This is the first I am hearing of the donation of a plot of property in Pleasure Bend."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "That is why we need to get serious about this because we brought this up before a year or more ago."*

*Theresa Rodgers stated, "If the plot of property is identified all we need are the perimeters of that and we can get an appraisal done and an act of donation. If it is being donated we can get legal to prepare an act of donation."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "That is why we have to get serious about this so that we can go talk to these people and find out if they are serious."*

*Theresa Rodgers stated, "We would need for the property owner to volunteer to donate the property."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "We have a gentleman right here, right now who is developing that area back there and he wants to donate us some land. I know this is private property but it has to be available to everybody in Pleasure Bend."*

*Councilman Wright stated, "Mrs. Rodgers just something that we need to be mindful of before we go and invest more money into more parks. First*

we need to learn to maintain what we have. I think we have stressed that since the beginning and I think a Recreation Director would stress upon that in getting a plan implemented to better maintain our parks because when they are neglected it becomes a hazard to children and it becomes a crime issue. So I think first we need to take care of what we have before investing any more money into other parks. So I think first let's look into getting a better maintenance schedule in keeping up what we have that way we are showing the community that when we put more parks in that we can better maintain them and they won't be a hazardous place for children."

Theresa Rodgers stated, "Your point is well taken and I will tell you that even in the absence of a Recreation Director we have placed an incredible amount of emphasis on safety and park maintenance in the last few months and we have made a lot of strides. I know you are in the parks but I feel like the parks are looking better than they have looked in a very long time but we are very mindful number one of safety, number two of continued schedule maintenance and we are lucky to have the additional WIA workers to help with that."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I was just trying to get on record that this land was going to be donated. If we have someone here that is willing to do that then let it be known to us because as we said we would like this recreation part if there is land that is going to be donated or green space. I know you are developing but all it would take would be to get the paperwork and get that drawn up and then we could see about getting some equipment but Councilman Wright made a great point that we have to take care of what we have and we do understand and want the people of Pleasure Bend to have some access to a playground and equipment but we also have to be mindful of our spending and be thrifty."

Councilman Madere stated, "Also I was there when the land was offered to us and I think we are half way there if we have the land. We are half way there to having a park and as far as finding the money for equipment through grants and everything I know that will take time and we can work on it but if we get the land and if we just put one swing out there it is still something for the kids to do and you can develop the park as you go but we have the land so we need to move on that and not have a donation that was given to us over a year ago and we haven't moved on it yet so we need to do that and also summer time is fast approaching and I think the administration and the council needs to move forward in trying to find us a Recreation Director and also the parks I was out there for Easter in the Parks and the Belle Point park looked better than it ever did but there are a few things that I still see that needs to be cleaned up there is some writing on the wall and some other little things that need to be done but other than that I think we are doing a much better job as far as maintaining the parks but we need to move on this park for Pleasure Bend and get the ball rolling."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would like to just add one last comment kind of to touch on what Michael had mentioned and since we have the developer here some of the subdivisions now are learning that they actually do a better job instead of donating property over to the parish but maintaining the property as part of the Homeowner's Association because they are in the neighborhood you are there every

day most often they take better care of those parks than what the parish will. So that may be something to explore going forward if it is something you want to build into your association and that may even serve Pleasure Bend a lot better and a lot quicker than what we can do instead of donating the property to us maintain it within your association is something to consider."

#### **Lennix Madere - Comcast**

There was no one present from Comcast so Councilman Madere asked that this item be carried over.

#### **Lennix Madere - Blighted properties/Unsafe houses**

Councilman Madere stated, "The reason why I put this on the agenda and some of the items that I have on the agenda are recurrent on the agenda but they are things that need to be taken care of and I am not going to back down on unsafe houses or properties or anything until we get to the point where we can control it or find a way to best handle it. What I did last week I spoke about the fact that we needed to come to a finalization on properties or come to the conclusion of what is going to happen to these properties. This house on 30<sup>th</sup> Street has really been a rock in my shoe. It has been bothering me for a long time. I tried to get the house torn down because I think it should be torn down. It is unsafe there a lot of problems going on with it so yesterday I spoke to Mr. Perrilloux a couple of times about going down there and finding out exactly who is the owner of that property and yesterday I got the address off of the internet and I went to that house in Metairie and knocked on that door and spoke to Mr. Leon Williams because the mail was getting to him. He said he gets each and every letter but his comment to me was he does not own that property anymore that was his father's property. His father died about three or four years ago and the property was passed on to someone else and I got back and I called Mr. Joseph and I said check this, I wasn't calling the guy a liar but I wanted to check it, I called Mr. Joseph and he checked it and said no it belongs to Leon Williams I said are you sure? Check it good and he came back no it don't belong to him anymore, it belongs to St. John Parish. It belongs to us through adjudicated property. So we are sending notes and letters and it belongs to us and I am fighting to get it torn down because it is blighted but it belongs to us. So this is what I meant about we need to come to a finalization. We can't just keep mailing letters and mailing letters and not getting answers. It is coming to the point where if you have to go out seek and you shall find. I got tired of it so I went out to see because I have a problem with individuals who have blighted properties or grass violations in St. John Parish that live other places so that is what really fueled me because I wanted to see where he lived and I wanted to see the neighborhood where he lives and if he had still owned that property I had a few questions for him but I got a surprise answer. The answer is that it is an adjudicated property to St. John Parish."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Okay I am just going to comment on the adjudicated part. Yes we did know it was adjudicated. It is listed on the tax roll as being adjudicated to the parish however it has not going through any process for the parish to take it over. So that person that is listed on there is still technically the owner and according to our ordinances and the law we still have to send them

notices. The same thing that is why there is a process with the adjudicated program that Broussard/Baloney is handling even though those are adjudicated to the parish we can't just sell them off because they are adjudicated to us. We still have to go through the notice process and notify all those people that were listed on their prior to it being adjudicated by the parish. So we did know that but even with that we still can't just tear it down because it is adjudicated to the parish."

Councilman Madere stated, "I understand that but I also found out that it was adjudicated in 2009 and there is a limit which I think is three years so they have passed that limit because this has been four years. So they can't come back and claim it. It is a done deal with them. I know if it is an adjudicated property and hasn't paid their taxes there is a three year time frame where they can come back and reclaim that property but we have passed that limit. So they cannot come back and claim that property it has been four years passed."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "There is three years for you to reclaim it if something was at tax sale to redeem a property but there is also a stipulation that involves a five year process where you are able to challenge I believe in court for other reasons within five years and I think that is why the adjudicated properties program that is set up only handles those that have been adjudicated for five years or more."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay when I spoke to him he said please stop sending letters. He doesn't want the property. He doesn't own it. It has been gone and in fact Leon Williams is deceased. The one that I spoke to is his son so he never own the property so I am more than sure the Leon Williams that was the original owner is not going to come back and claim it and the three sons that I spoke to yesterday Robert, Billy Dee and Leon Williams, Jr. assured me that we could have the property they are not interested in it. So what I am saying is that the information that you are giving me now it isn't privileged information. I should have been notified that I am dealing with a piece of property and trying to locate someone that is in my own backyard. You said you were aware of it that it was adjudicated but nobody mentioned that to me."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "It is in the file. It says it on the tax roll form. It says adjudicated to the parish."

Councilman Madere stated, "I am not digging on the tax roll. I am digging on the information that came from Code Enforcement."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Mr. Madere I think the other issue that was being discussed was the fact that in order for a property to be demolished I think Mr. O'Regan had already sent a memo saying that it had to meet this criteria and also it was based on the recommendation of the parish president if we demolish it or not."

Councilman Madere stated, "I understand that and like I mentioned before it meets the criteria. Now it should be a lot easier based on the fact that we found out that we have a lot more to say about that property than anyone else. So it should be a lot easier for us to make that decision. I don't think the parish is going to repair it. So if we are not going to repair it than we need to find some kind of a way to

get rid of it."

#### **Lennix Madere - Grass cutting contracts**

Councilman Madere stated, "The grass cutting contracts isn't specifically to the contracts. I just want to make sure that when they do cut the grass and I am speaking for throughout the parish but especially in District III that we do a real good job in terms of cutting it. If I report a property that has tall grass and it is all over the fence when I pass back and it has been cut and you showed me some pictures of some areas where they did a really good job that is basically what I am looking for in District III. My district has a long way to go and when they cut it and I pass I want to be able to say it actually looks like it has been cut. I want that property, especially if it is on the River Road or down someone's subdivision or next door to someone's house so that they can see that when the parish does their job that we are really doing a good job and not just a half quick cut job and that is the reason why I am saying this to get this out of the way because grass cutting season is coming and it is going to be upon us really soon. I am not saying that they haven't. There are a couple of locations and Mr. Gauff knows about these, they didn't do good but we want to make sure that this time that they all understand that we are looking for a good clean beautiful cut and I know you are going to express that to them that is the only reason I had it on the agenda."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "I just would like to comment since you brought it up just to let everybody know what we are doing. They don't actually have contracts with us but we do have vendors who perform the grass cutting services for our violation properties through code enforcement. They were initially called in for meetings and given a criteria of this is what we want, this is what we expect we need you not only to cut, you need to edge, you need to cut around the fence line and everything and the way that is verified once they cut the grass the contractors actually submit pictures to us showing us before and after and if the after pictures are not sufficient the code officer is actually supposed to go there and follow up and take their own set of pictures to verify this. So the ones that I did show you, the ones that I asked them to pull and it wasn't any one in particular I asked them to pull the last 5 or 6 that we have done and all the pictures that I showed you were actually cut to our satisfaction so we are doing that and we have been doing that."

Councilman Madere stated, "And they were very nice and neat, I am looking for the same thing in District III and I appreciate it."

#### **Lennix Madere - Drainage equipment needed**

Councilman Madere stated, "First I want to thank Mr. Brian Nunes and Mr. Kendrick's. The other day when we had that little rain episode I looked out my door and I witnessed a drainage miracle and what I mean by a drainage miracle I looked outside and there were two guys in a parish truck with the simplest tools they ever had in drainage a shovel and a rake and they were outside raking the leaves and cleaning out the culverts and the water was draining and that was a miracle. It was wonderful to see. I went out and spoke to the guys they told me they had from E. 19<sup>th</sup> Street all the way to 31<sup>st</sup> Street. So immediately I went outside and told them my area is okay and I took a ride down 26<sup>th</sup> Street

and told them that they needed to go over there first and take care of those people over there. They went down there with the shovel and long rake, they unplugged a couple of culverts and the water went down immediately and I want to thank the drainage department. I have been on them about it and when something is good I am going to mention it and I want to thank you for the fact that you had them out there and they were writing down addresses where some of the culverts are still plugged so that was great and the people in the community actually came out and talked to them and wanted to know what they were doing and when they explained to them what they were doing they were excited. So this was a little minor miracle and it is little steps but little steps end up being big steps when you get something accomplished. I want to thank you all for doing that. I know you are really trying with the equipment part. You had the trucks blowing out the different culverts down the street. On 31<sup>st</sup> Street you were down 30<sup>th</sup> Street and I spoke to the guy who was doing it and I asked him how long does it take him to do each side of a particular street and he said it may take them a whole day to do one street and that is when I realized that we have only one truck like that in a parish where we have miles and miles of ditches and thousands of culverts and it is unbelievable the amount of work that truck is going to have to do. So that is why I put on here equipment. I can't be on your time and bugging you about production when you don't have the manpower or equipment to do it but I appreciate the effort that you are doing and it is going to take time but 31<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Streets thank you because they are flowing a lot better and 29<sup>th</sup> on down the line is looking forward to the truck being there but we need drainage equipment. It isn't the usual I am complaining about the drainage department. I am actually praising the drainage department tonight about the effort that they are putting forward and from the people in District III we want to thank you and keep up the hard work but we will still be there."

**Larry Snyder - Planning & Zoning/Code Enforcement signage information**

Councilman Snyder stated, "Is there someone here that can explain to me the codes for signs? I was just concerned because I got some calls about signs being legal and illegal. I don't quite understand. Everything I have read says that each business can have two signs one on the building and a detached sign and there are things known as being grandfathered in. Now I may be a little naïve here but my understanding is that grandfathered in and business closes and it is 180 days and there is no business there then you lose you're grandfathering and anyone else coming after you they would have to comply with the new ordinances. I guess that is part of it but probably not the whole story but if you are grandfathered in then you can't change anything. What is the change to a building that is grandfathered in that would make them be in non-compliance?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Okay was that your only question? I am going to do the best I can because your item was rather vague and I didn't know exactly what you were asking and there is multiple sections on signage and I don't have them all to memory. What you are referring to is one attached sign and one detached sign which is in the overlay district but actually commercial districts that are outside of the overlay district they don't follow the same rules. Grandfathered means that if your sign or building or whatever was there or even the use was there prior to the passage of whatever ordinances or codes apply to



*that particular thing then you are grandfathered in. For example if you are using something there are some auto shops in a R-1 those things are not allowed as to our present code but if they were there prior to the passage of the code in 1988 which created the zoning district they are still grandfathered in. You can't expand or enlarge or change anything because then that would alter your grandfather status."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "Change like what? Because change to me could mean instead of a three car alley I am going to expand to a four car alley but it could also mean change the color of the building. Now is that a change to change the color of the building? I went from Mike's auto to Larry's auto."*

*Angelic Sutherland stated, "Not to paint your building no I don't think that would be a significant change but the code does say to alter or even if you add signage that is an alteration. If you are using this piece of property you can't purchase the property next door to you and expand your business so it is a little more detailed than just me painting my building or if a window breaks me replacing my window."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay so if I rent, lease or buy a building and it is grandfathered in but it is legally non-conforming now I don't change anything the signs outside are still outside the signs on the door are the same signs am I illegal if I do that as a different business using the same sign that was there?"*

*Angelic Sutherland asked, "Are you talking about signs?"*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "Signs for the business yes."*

*Angelic Sutherland stated, "No. There was a particular case and this was the one on 51 and I will use this as an example that business or building had been vacant for well over two years so in that sense there was no longer any grandfather status at that point. So when you come in you have to comply and I think as it goes to repair and again this is off of the top of my head because I don't have the code in front of me but I think in the overlay district when it is regarding repairs to a building you can make certain repairs to your building that are necessary but I believe if the repairs are more than 50% of the value of the property than you have to comply with all the new overlay district requirements."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay so that makes you non-compliant and you have to comply with everything? You have to do what is right in other words."*

*Angelic Sutherland stated, "Yes you would have to add your landscaping or anything that applies to that from now on your property has to comply if it be landscaping or parking or whatever."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay I have a hundred questions that I was going to ask. I want this on the agenda for the next meeting because I have some things that I want to look at."*

*Angelic Sutherland asked, "Could you possibly maybe tell me what those questions are in advance so that I could actually prepare?"*

Councilman Snyder stated, "It wouldn't be any fun that way."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Okay well I am not a walking code book so I can't guarantee that I will be answer those questions for you if I don't know ahead of time."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I don't want to put you on the spot but I am going to ask questions like I just asked because I want to know. I've got a lady that is in my district, her business is in my district, she did everything she was supposed to do and she still has problems with Planning & Zoning nothing has changed."

Angelic Sutherland asked, "Are we talking about a sign or Airline?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes a sign, nothing has changed same signs."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "No I understand what you are saying but if we are talking about the same issue and the same property that is a totally different issue then grandfathered that is why I am asking you."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I don't know what you are talking about but I am talking about on Airline Hwy and it might not be grandfathered in but it was a business that has been there for years."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "We can talk about it after but I think the specific issue that you are talking about is that we cannot permit a sign to go on somebody else's property. It has nothing to do with grandfathering."

Councilman Snyder stated, "But it was already there."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "I know but the sign is not on her property."

Councilman Snyder stated, "There are a lot of signs there on the same line nothing has changed. She didn't add a sign. The sign is already there. She was grandfathered in."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "We have gotten some information from DOTD and I can share that with you after but that is actually DOTD's property."

Councilman Snyder asked, "DOTD said they didn't want a sign there?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "DOTD said they do not permit signs there on their property and they don't recommend that we do either because it is their property."

Councilman Snyder asked, "You said they don't recommend that we do?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "We can't it is not on their property. When anybody comes in to get a permit if it is for a sign or to build a house or to put a shed you have to supply us with information that proves that you own that property or we can pull it from the assessor's tax roll but most people come and they bring their deed, their cash sale or whatever. You have to own the piece of property or that would

*be like me giving your neighbor permission to put a shed on your property. You have to own the property."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"It is rental property."*

Angelic Sutherland stated, *"It is DOTD's property."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"But it is rental property, do you know why it is DOTD property? Did you go to the proprietor and asked why is it on DOTD property? You have signs out there flashing and blinking and nothing is getting done about it but I have noticed that certain people are getting harassed by code enforcement."*

Angelic Sutherland stated, *"We can talk about that off line because some of those things that you are bringing up are in the code enforcement system. So they are being addressed."*

Councilman Snyder asked, *"Put it on the agenda for the next meeting please?"*

Councilman Madere stated, *"Ms. Sutherland I heard you say that if someone wanted to paint a building is there a permit involved with that for the outside of the building?"*

Angelic Sutherland stated, *"No you don't need a permit to paint a building."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"You see that is what I am saying we get mixed information because when this person was granted permission to reopen she wanted to change the color on the building and they told her she would have to pay I think it was \$200+ dollars to get a permit to paint the building so I just wanted to know based upon what you said that she received the wrong information because she wanted to change the color of the building."*

Angelic Sutherland stated, *"We can talk about that off line too as I would need specifics to look exactly into what case but I doubt anybody in my office told somebody and if they did shame on them that they needed a permit to paint a building."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"Well it is a shame because they told me too."*

Angelic Sutherland stated, *"Okay."*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Cheryl Millet - Ruddock Well proposal**

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"I want to check with administration because six weeks ago this council directed the administration to find funding for us for this Ruddock Well and I just want to know what the status of that is?"*

Virgil Rayneri stated, *"We are reviewing the final report from the Water Infrastructure Committee regarding an additional source of water and will submit it to the council once completed. If you want I can*

*explain what we have been doing. I tried to get in touch with you but I missed you because I know we would have had a very nice discussion. I know exactly what you are looking for."*

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"And I am still looking for it."*

Virgil Rayneri stated, *"We have met about five separate times and had a pretty good solid group of professionals and managers of the treatment plants and several things involved with it and we have several items that we have identified for further discussion and evaluations and of course you know some of the interim items that we are working on as we speak right now but we will have a nice report for you to look at."*

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"You see I am really confused about this whole situation because when this council directed administration to find the funding for the well that we all unanimously said we wanted now we are having a committee to look at alternatives that we never asked you for. We asked for a well to be put at Ruddock so that we can have a source of water until we get a plant that goes to the river or until we do something in Reserve so that when the well goes out we are not shut off or out of water. I don't understand meetings and all of this other stuff. We did not ask for that. We asked for you to find the source for the money to drop the well. Now you are talking about having a committee made up of whom?"*

Virgil Rayneri stated, *"We had 4 engineers, Chuck was one of them, we had the water treatment manager, the billing manager, FEMA for source of money and we also had the CAO and the parish president."*

Councilwoman Millet asked, *"When is this report going to be ready in the next six months?"*

Virgil Rayneri stated, *"No I would say probably in the next couple of weeks."*

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"Because I do remember bringing our parish engineer up to the podium where you are standing now and asking him what is our alternative and he said clear as day drop the well and that is our engineer that we are paying to do this."*

Virgil Rayneri stated, *"He is an active member of the committee."*

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"Well let me ask him do you still feel we need to drop the well or do you think we are just going through motions here? If you would get up to the podium I will love this answer."*

C.J. Savoie, Parish Engineer, stated, *"My goal was and still is that we needed a source of water. I was looking for the most economical means of providing a source of water and so is administration. I think they want to provide a source of water. You asked me on two occasions, not just once, what I thought or what would I do and I told you I would put the well in that is correct. Why? The reason I told you that is because that was to me the most economical thing to do right now because and I am not saying going to the river is wrong. I am not saying that any other means or source of getting water is wrong. I think and I am not trying to undermine what the administration is doing because I think they have the same goal they want to get a source of water. Their*

problem with the well is that even though we are talking about right now raising all of the electrical equipment and getting it up in the air and that is a good thing because then it puts it in a safe zone out of flood prone areas so that you could operate it even if you did have a flood and I understand the president's concerns because when you had Hurricane Isaac you had a situation where they lost the well and they went out and they had to get a helicopter out there to provide and get it all on manual to provide you with water and that is a good concern and what they are still concerned about is even if we put another well out there and we raised all of the equipment then if something goes wrong out there they still have to get a helicopter out there if they have a flood to go out there and fix it and that is a good viable concern. We looked at in this committee and I sit on the committee, several alternatives for a source of water. One is the well. We are still looking at the well. One is putting a new plant at the river for providing water to the reverse osmosis plant. Another one is, which I just came up with and submitted it to the group, is a possibility which I don't think it would cost as much is to expand the Lions water plant which is an existing facility and you don't have to go through the permitting. It won't take as long. They don't think it cost as much and then run a line from the Lions water plant to the LaPlace community and provide you another source of water from there and they are also talking about going under the river with the line which is under design right now and that comes up by the Lions water plant so that source of water would also come through that line. So those are three different possible sources for the water. You asked me the question what would you do now and the reason is simple it is mathematics. I came up and told you that putting another well in right now would cost you about 1.5 million dollars. All of these other things are more expensive. Also longer time consuming and those are the things that concern me but I am still open to see what they come up with because they came up with this group. So administration wants to present you with a report and give you some alternatives. I don't know if that answers your question but that is where I stand on it."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So this committee is forming other alternatives than what this council has directed them to do is that correct? I am asking is this committee trying to find an alternative to what the council has already directed them to do?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "To answer your question we have been doing several things not only trying to get the revenue because that is not my function but we also wanted to understand the cost and the time of the well versus the cost and the time of the alternatives."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "We should have this report back within the next 30 days you say?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "I would say yes."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Okay and in 30 days we are going to have a funding source? Are we going to have a solution? Are we going to have more information? The bottom line is that we are living with a time bomb at this well right now and I don't know how much longer you all are going to spend time doing a study, doing research the bottom line is that the residents of LaPlace can go without water at any time."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "Let me explain something to you."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "And we are not getting any closer to alleviating that situation and that is my concern."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "For the past 30 years you have been living with a time bomb ever since we have been here we have been trying to find ways so we do not have to live with a time bomb and that is what we are pursuing and have been pursuing since I have been on this job because nobody ever thought about it or worried about it because they were out there 15 miles away from us in a place that you very well know we have several incidents and safety situations."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Oh I am not a big fan of the well don't get me wrong. I just want to make sure that there is a continuous source of water to the residents of LaPlace that is my concern. I don't want to have to deal with a situation where the water has been shut off and we have no water for 3-4 days while we fix the problem. I want the problem to be alleviated before we have to fix it."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "Well if you put another well that would be the problem."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "In your opinion."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "In my opinion because you have 18 miles of line underground that are failing every 2-3 months and every time you valve off the system you are creating a problem that you may not recover with water."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "All I am looking for is a source of water to the residents of LaPlace. My engineer told me dropping a well would be the quickest and easiest solution. You are telling me that my engineer needs to rethink that."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "No I am not saying that your engineer needs to rethink that maybe you put him in a spot and he gave you an answer which was the quickest way to resolve it but we would still be 18 miles out there."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I understand that. I think that there are other solutions and I am not concerned about that because the other solutions are going to take years. We are talking 5 or 10 years. I am talking about in the short term to make sure that the residents continue with a source of water."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "That is what we needed to discuss you and I and I could explain to you some of the interim solutions that we are working on which would probably satisfy your concern which is our concern by the way. It is my job to make sure we supply water to the citizens."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just want to make sure that we are not going to be caught with our hands down and not take care of the residents. I'll let you have your 30 days but you get your report and bring it back to me and we will look at that again."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "Do you understand Mrs. Millet the well didn't fail it just flooded and we couldn't get to it."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I understand it wasn't the well so much it was all the piping underneath and everything else."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "We have never had a failure on surface water plants which is the Edgard plant and the Lion's plant."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "The only problem is LaPlace can't get that water yet."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "Perhaps."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Perhaps what 5 to 10 years from now they can."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "Maybe."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I don't want to wait that long."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "Let's set up a little meeting."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I will wait until your report is ready."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "Yes and we can review it with you."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I just wanted to add something really quick and I have a real concern about it. The question was asked about if the engineers assessment was incorrect and your statement was that you felt like he gave an answer based on the spot that he was in and I guess I just have a real concern about that because it seems as if not seems but what you are saying is that our engineer gave us an answer because of the spot he was in not that it was the correct answer. So I am not comfortable with that either you guys just maybe agree to disagree but I don't want the accusations to be made that the engineer just gave us an answer because he was in a spot and that it wasn't his professional engineering opinion."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "If I said that."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "You did say that and I guess the real issue here and we can mask it all we want is that we have two difference of opinions. Virgil and I am not saying it is right or wrong because I am not an engineer but we will keep beating this up but at the end of the day your recommendation is that we don't drop this well. You believe that we shouldn't drop this well so at some point the great minds have to come together and give us a good recommendation because we are getting one recommendation from you Chuck as our engineer but Virgil is saying that is wrong. Something has to happen because the administration and the council we are not engineers. We are leaning on you guys and if this committee is made up of the administration who has made it clear that they do not agree with this well then I mean you are really wasting your time and I just want you to clarify your position Chuck."

C.J. Savoie stated, "My position is this, I have been here 22 years as this parish engineer, you are not going to put me on the spot I am going to answer you honestly and truthfully with what I think and that is what I gave you was an honest answer regardless of what other people might tell you that I am on the spot. I am not on the spot and I told you just now I told you not just once but I told you twice. I'm not saying that I cannot be wrong but I am just giving you an opinion as your parish engineer and I probably know more about this water system than anybody in this room. So I am just telling you what I think and I gave you an opinion and I am opened minded I looked at some other alternatives because I understand their concerns that is why I told you about the Lion's water plant but I am open to concerns. My biggest concern is the same as Councilwoman Millet in that it is a time element that is what I am concerned about."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I know there is a time limit but if we sink this well it will cost 1.5 million. So that means you are a 1.5 million away of putting something in the river. I am not for the well personally. I mean you have 18 miles of piping out there at some point and time not all of it is in the ground but you do have a major deal if a line breaks they may have to bring cranes and everything else out there to get this thing fixed. I never did like the well system since I have been on the council. We need to see if we can find some funds somewhere sooner than later to start a project and get it done and it doesn't have to be in Reserve but we can get the permits it might take a little time but it needs to be over here perhaps in the area by DuPont or somewhere to me that is where it needs to be I just can't go along with 18 miles of piping that you have to deal with constantly and seeking another well to me is not an option but I don't live in LaPlace."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "My concern with the well and I don't want to disagree with you is find the property, design it, find the money, build it and it will take 10 years. In the meantime what do we do?"

Councilman Wilson stated, "Well I don't think it will take 10 years."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I've been here 9 years and we don't even have a piece of property. I am only speaking from experience. We did try to purchase the DuPont property and originally the property we were going to purchase for a sewer plant we didn't go forward with that then we were going to purchase it for the water and the council didn't go in that direction and we didn't purchase that piece of property and I don't know if that property is even still available, no it is not even available. So like I said I have been here 9 years."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I think if they did a little bit more digging they would find something available even if they did go to the Reserve site."

Councilman Madere stated, "I think what Mrs. Millet is talking about and I am in complete agreement with her the other things that we have on the table as far as getting water to LaPlace is something that is going to take a long time and as you said we have a time bomb ticking. It could happen tonight. The water could go out and something could happen to that well and then you talk about we are on the spot everybody is going to be on the spot all the people in LaPlace are



going to be hopping mad. So I think what Mrs. Millet is trying to say is that it cost 1.5 million dollars to put this well down for some type of insurance to make sure that if something happens the people of LaPlace will have water that is the most important thing. Now the other long term issues or how to solve this problem okay we can still be working on that but in the mean time you need something that can back you up when you are working with a system and I do remember previous meetings where they said the wells that we have now are 10 to 12 years past their expiration date and that means that they can go out at any time. So you need to have something in place that is going to protect the citizens of St. John Parish. Reserve has water we don't mind sharing but you can't get it now so we need to have a well here to take care of the residents of LaPlace and I think Mrs. Millet is on the right track and I think this council is on the right track. We need to spend that money to protect the citizens of St. John Parish."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I think Cheryl is definitely on the right track. We need to challenge that committee to come back to us with some numbers also when they come back with whatever they want to recommend to us. I think we heard numbers like 30 million for a new plant in LaPlace and we have heard 1.5 million for a new well. I have been preaching for a long time let's just run another line from Reserve so let's come back with a number for that also and let's see what that would cost us and we might be able to make at least some educated decisions on which way we are going to go. We need a more reliable source of water supply to LaPlace and I am with Chuck if that will guarantee us water for another 5 years until we can get this other stuff up 1.5 million dollars isn't a lot to invest because if we lose one of those wells back there we are going to be up a creek and I realize that we can have problems with piping and we have had problems with piping but we need something now I challenge that committee when they come back in the next couple of weeks or so bring us back some numbers also those plans you have with those plans bring us back some numbers and possibly identify some sources or revenue."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I agree I think this is a very sensitive matter. I spoke with some former council people who were on the council 20 and 30 years ago and I think they had the same concerns then that we are having today. The well is a quick fix. Today was the first time I really heard of the piping issues being brought up and I don't think that was brought up before so if that is an issue then we need to look at that. I think Larry just made a great point give us numbers, give us things that we can look at and see and make a good decision as a group but we still have to make good decisions based on our residents and the residents of LaPlace. If we lose water we are going to be in trouble. So we are all in trouble then. We all value Chuck's opinion but as Ms. Hotard said we can't keep bouncing these opinions back and forth. We have to have something tangible that we can look at and move forward with. The more time we sit here and bounce these around the less time we might have to actually do something. So now is just the time that we need something back, something that we can all look at, sink our hands and teeth into and make a decision. So I think that is what we are really asking for."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "I think that is the reason the parish president developed this committee."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I don't think Mrs. Millet that you are looking for another well. I think you are looking for quicker solution."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I am looking for a Band-Aid in case we have a problem."

Councilman Wilson stated, "You can dig 5 more wells and still get no water at one point in time. Going to the Reserve plant and adding on and piping it here is a much better option or finding another place to put a plant but I think Reserve would be easier it is just a matter of putting the plant and running the pipe."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Then the Reserve plant is not going to be able to have enough to supply LaPlace's needs then we will have to build a plant again and we are looking at another 2 years and more millions. I am talking about short term until we find a permanent solution. I don't want the problem to show up and then we are going to walk around and try to figure out how to fix it. I want to have a resource, an insurance policy, a Band-Aid and then we have the time to do what we need to do for permanent use. I am not against that I just don't want to be caught in a situation."

Councilman Wilson stated, "There is no quick fix to this situation."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Ms. Landeche will you please put this on the agenda not for the next meeting but for the following I will expect a report in our hands prior to the meeting so that we will have time to go over it. Is that fair enough?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "Yes and I will sit down and talk to you and give you a little bit more background and remember the council authorized the administration to go and seek a loan a water loan which is to increase the capacity at the Lions plant by 3 million more gallons."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Because we had to because it isn't at full capacity and we had to get it back to full and if we bring LaPlace on then we still don't have enough so we will have to go back and get more again. I understand all of that but that still isn't solving the problem that I am dealing with right now."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Mr. Rayneri I am not going to comment because I echo what everyone is saying but when you incorporate those workshops or meetings please include me on that email so that I can come because I have a whole list of questions here but I am not going to get into it tonight. I am going to wait until you bring the recommendations. One for the Ruddock when you bring it have a dollar figure for the Ruddock and number two when you bring it for the Lion's plant have a dollar figure and three which I know is the last one is the regional water plant that we don't have the funding for but bring a dollar figure so that we all can look at that and make the best decision for the residents of LaPlace because I don't want to be like we were for Isaac with no water for 4-5 days again that didn't go over good especially with me."

Councilman Wright asked, "Mr. Rayneri with that recommendation will you

*have a funding source identified that we requested 6 weeks ago?"*

*Virgil Rayneri stated, "We were not charged with that we were tasked to come up with ideas and thoughts."*

*Councilman Wright stated, "We asked for a funding source for the Ruddock well at the council's discretion."*

*Virgil Rayneri stated, "Yes I think Mrs. Millet said that you had asked that."*

*Councilman Wright stated, "Correct we did so will we have that with the recommendation? A funding source identified for the Ruddock Well?"*

*Virgil Rayneri stated, "Right now and I am going to be open and honest with you the committee has not come out with a total amount of dollars. They have come out with suggestions and ideas and proposals for recommendations and to look at it. We have some ideas for the interim funding but the permanent solution we have only spent 5-6 meetings on it and it takes a little bit more research to come out with some dollars. We can give you a ball park."*

*Councilman Wright stated, "As per our engineer for the third well we were given a rough dollar amount and at this council's discretion we requested an identification of a funding source so can we have that with that recommendation for a third well?"*

*Virgil Rayneri stated, "I can't answer that. I am going to be open and honest I cannot answer that. We will look at it."*

*Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Mr. Rayneri is there anyone on the committee, besides Chuck, who believes that we need to put another well at Ruddock?"*

*Virgil Rayneri stated, "We had some good discussions."*

*Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Is there anyone else on the committee who believes we should put another well at Ruddock besides our parish engineer?"*

*Virgil Rayneri stated, "Yes I would say that some other company might have been interested in it that way."*

*Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Do you know what engineer that was?"*

*Virgil Rayneri stated, "I believe it was CDM."*

*Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Can you tell me who is on this committee?"*

*Virgil Rayneri stated, "We have one CDM engineer. We have a digital engineering engineer. We have Chuck, myself, Carl DeSelle, the communication department is there to take notes. We have the billing department and Allen Azardo from FEMA he is the one that is looking for sources of funding."*

*Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Is it your opinion that we don't need another well at Ruddock?"*

Virgil Rayneri stated, "My opinion I agree with that I don't think we need one."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I just want to say that I think the biggest concern of the council is that we agree that long term we need to look at funding sources so that we can have a permanent water supply for LaPlace but we are concerned about right now the next 5-10 years before we have this permanent solution because as I said we have been talking about getting water from the river since I came aboard in 2004 and it is 2013. So we recognize that while that is a permanent long term solution it is kind of far off and we don't want to run into the situations that we had maybe 8-9 months ago but twice in one month where we lost water. You know if you are just a resident at home and you are trying to cook, bath the kids and everything else and you don't have water you aren't thinking about anything else."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "The reason why you lost water the first time is because we had a failure in the line."

Councilman Wright stated, "Mr. Rayneri I just want to go on the record saying and I said it at the last meeting. I would rather spend the money now and put more security measures in place to protect the residents of LaPlace."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I don't think that Mr. Savoie said that was the best thing to do I think he said that it was the fastest thing to do but still putting a third well is not a solution to that particular problem when you have pipe damage or failure and I just don't to me it is not an option."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I guess the argument to that is that we have pipe damage now but if there is no well and no water it doesn't matter if you have a pipe in the ground or not if you don't have any water to run through the pipes. So we have to just look at everything. There are pipe problems just like we saw with the sewer problems in Reserve with I&I that doesn't mean that you don't continue to build on your system because you have pipe problems. Pipes don't matter if there isn't a tank with water in it."

Councilman Wilson stated, "The only option that would save you for that maybe for a short time would be to put brand new piping down on a new well which is out of site as far as pricing goes."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Is it possible, like Councilman Perrilloux said that you formed this committee and I know the council is the one that voted and gave the direction that we look into this. Can we be notified of when these meetings are so that if someone wants to be there?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "Well as of right now the report hasn't been written then it will be edited and you can go from there."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "So it is all over."

**NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no new business.

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

Theresa Rodgers stated, "The River Region Chamber of Commerce Reverse Trade Show was a success last week. It was a great opportunity for small business owners to meet with large companies in industry and government to obtain information about performing contractual services. Pups in the Park was also a success this past weekend and will go a long way to support our Animal Shelter. Please join us in thanking the Rotary Club for their ongoing support. Congratulations to the West St. John Girls Basketball Team for being invited to the Women's Final Four Tournament as guests. Enjoy the games! Please be reminded that the Legislative Session began yesterday and the Governor's tax proposal has been removed from consideration. We will watch closely as some of the components of that plan are moving through the Legislature. We are working with our delegation to maintain ferry services, GOHSEP funding for Emergency Preparedness, CDBG funding for Isaac, and generating opposition to new NFIP changes that would result in higher flood insurance rates. In preparation for the upcoming Hurricane Season, my staff and our local response agencies had a planning meeting with numerous State Agencies and the Governor's Office of Emergency Preparedness yesterday. All departments are working on plans and agreements for the 2013 Hurricane Season. I encourage our residents and business owners to begin getting their game plans together as well. Please register for FirstCall Emergency Notifications at [sjbparish.com](http://sjbparish.com) to receive emergency information on your home phone, cell phone, or by email. St. John the Baptist Parish Hurricane Isaac victims who have serious unmet needs can get additional help through Case Management Services. This is a free, one-on-one support program that pairs survivors with a case manager whose sole job is to help them through the recovery process. Catholic Charities of New Orleans is running the program, which ends Aug. 29, 2014. **Survivors may call 1-866-891-2210 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. After hours, they may leave a message.** The program is administered by LA Department of Children and Family Services and is funded through a grant from FEMA. For the last 4 months residents have participated in CAC meetings and open houses as a part of the National Disaster Recovery Framework. St. John Parish is one of the first parishes in the nation to make full use of this FEMA resource and may serve as a model for the recovery efforts of other communities across the nation. With assistance from state and federal agencies, community leadership and local involvement have been vital in developing recovery priorities that are realistic, well-planned and clearly communicated. I'd like to thank all of the committee members and those who have participated in the open house meetings and online voting. Results will be forthcoming. A Public Information Meeting is scheduled Thursday, April 11 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Reserve Library to discuss the possible construction of a new roadway in the Reserve area along US 61 to I-10. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for a half-hour open house, and a PowerPoint presentation will begin at 6:00 p.m. Reminder - Rising Star Baptist Church in LaPlace will hosts its town hall meeting Thursday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m. Clean Sweep is this Saturday, April 13, 2013. Sign-up online at [sjbparish.com](http://sjbparish.com) or contact Dana Milioto at 985-652-9569. Participants will meet at Highway 51 Park at 8:30 a.m. to pick up supplies before dispatching to their assigned areas. Volunteers will meet back at the park at 11:30 a.m. for music, food and refreshments.

If you are pre-registered, supplies will be available for pick up at the Percy Hebert Building this Friday from 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. In connection with the "Keep St. John Beautiful" initiative and in partnership with "Keep America Beautiful" St. John Parish is excited to launch a new litter campaign to increase awareness of the litter problem in the parish. Residents can help generate more buzz about the problem by "writing their wrong" on the St. John Facebook & Twitter page. For more information, visit [litteringiswrong.org](http://litteringiswrong.org). On Friday, April 12, the Council on Aging Office in Reserve will hold its re-opening ceremony from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. All are invited to visit the facility and meet the staff. In addition, River Parishes Hospital is hosting a Senior Health Fair on Tuesday, April 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the St. John Council on Aging Center in Reserve. Free health screenings and health information will be available. Guest Speaker, Dr. Andrew St. Martin will also discuss stress management. For more information, please call 985-653-1644. Registration for St. John the Baptist Parish 2013 Youth Baseball Season for boys and girls ages 5 to 14 years old has been extended until Friday, April 12. Contact Debra Poche or the Parks and Recreation Department at 985-652-9569 extension 1168 or at [d.poche@sjbparish.com](mailto:d.poche@sjbparish.com). The Department is also seeking coaches for this 2013 Youth Baseball season. This year's baseball season kicks off in late April and runs through June. The Children & Youth Services Planning Board Committee is registering participants for a free fishing camp for children ages 8-14 on April 20. Fishing poles and bait will be provided and lunch will be served. Volunteers are needed to help. For applications, please call Bernell Charles at 504-570-4885. Residents are reminded that contractors are responsible for disposal of debris resulting from new construction and tree branches cut by contractors. Debris trucks are still in the area collecting larger piles of debris. In an effort to assist in debris pick-up, residents are asked to phone-in debris complaints to DRC hotline at 504-256-1067."

#### **COUNCIL BRIEFS**

Councilman Smith stated, "I want to thank my wife and daughters for taking care of me all this while and everyone knows my health is fine now. I am not all the way there but I'm getting there. I want to thank everyone for their prayers it does help."

Councilman Madere stated, "I would like to thank the residents in St. John Parish that came out to Easter in the Parks at the Belle Point Park. We had a really good time. I would like to mention some of the people that helped Rona Duronselet, Cheryl Dent, Dwight Johnson, Hazel Wilkens, Elois Frank and Councilman-at-Large Lucien Gauff who stopped by to help out. We had a really good time and I would like to thank our DJ. I would also like to thank Verdel and Brian Nunes for the effort that they are putting working with me and my district to try to improve drainage and everything else that I ask them to do and also I have to mention the drainage crew that was the miracle that I saw Lindel Charles and Allen Landry and please come out and support the fair at Our Lady of Grace this weekend. Also I want to send a belated birthday wish to my sister Linda Boudoin."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I would like to thank all of the residents and the kids that came out for Easter in the Parks. We had about 70 kids and they had a wonderful time. Thanks to the bunny who

came everyone kept wondering where the bunny was and she pulled up in a black sedan and they said wow the bunny drives. So I want to thank the bunny it was a great day. I want to thank my wife, sister-in-laws and brother-in-laws, ESJ volley ball and track team helped me out over there plus some parish workers. I would like to say congratulations to Riverlands Christian center for their fair this weekend it was very well attended and a success for the first one and come out this weekend and support OLG fair and Happy Birthday to my son."

Councilman Wright stated, "I too just want to thank everyone who came out to Easter in the Parks. It was very successful at the Hwy. 51 park and I want to commend administration for another great year in putting it on. I also want to encourage everybody again to come out Saturday to Clean Sweep. It should be one of 365 days to keep St. John beautiful. So come out and let's get it started."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I would like to thank the bunny also. Thanks for coming out there and putting smiles on the kid's faces. Also our fair is this week at OLG and I would like everyone to come out and I would also like to thank Mr. Charles you know with these kids he is doing something with the kids with the fishing rodeo. There are a lot of kids who have never been fishing in this parish. It is hard for some people to realize that but there are some kids in this parish who have never had a fishing pole in their hands and they are going to get an opportunity to do just that. Thank you for doing that and you are going to put a lot of smiles on a lot of kid's faces this may be the only time some of them ever go fishing in their lives. Clean up this weekend in the parish and I would like to invite everyone to come out and clean. We have our meeting this week in Cambridge and it may not last very long because we are going to get out and clean also."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I want to thank everybody who came out for Easter in the Parks. We had a great time at Greenwood Park even though we didn't have the bunny again. One year we might have a bunny but it isn't that important we still had a great time and we did have a fire truck. I want to thank everyone for coming out to Pups in the Park last weekend. We had a great time. I want to thank the Sheriff's Office and the parish for their help because it couldn't be a success without the help from them. Also I just have a little pet peeve. I am trying to help residents getting trash picked up and debris but there are no house numbers. Can you please put house numbers on your residence? I had to back up because I can't find an address. If we have this trouble can you imagine what an ambulance or a fire truck would have? Please put house numbers on your house for everyone's safety."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I would like to thank the kids and parents for coming out also for Easter in the Park. I would like to remind everyone to come out for OLG's fair this weekend. Clean sweep is on Saturday, as Councilman Wright said it has to happen every day we want to keep St. John beautiful so please come help on Saturday. I would also like to say Happy Birthday to my wife next Tuesday."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I will definitely pass on all the thanks to the Easter bunny. It was a great event. All of the parks were very well attended and I look forward to it next year."

There was no 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 - 40<sup>th</sup> 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 8:52 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