

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 12th, 2011
CHAIR RONNIE SMITH
VICE CHAIR CHERYL MILLET

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, April 12th, 2011, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Haston Lewis, Councilman District I, Charles Julien, Councilman District III, Raydel Morris, Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilwoman District IV, Steve Lee, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B, Danny Millet, Councilman District II, Cheryl Millet, Councilwoman District VII

ABSENT: Ronnie Smith & Darnel C. Usry

A plaque was presented to Raydel Morris for his six months of service to the St. John Council.

Raydel Morris stated, *"I want to thank the council for supporting me in my brief stay here. Thank you for backing me in the decisions and issues that I brought up in Division A. Thank the administration for being cooperative and whenever I had a problem we sat down and talked about it and that was several conversations. Some were good. I enjoyed the time. Thanks to my constituents that was in the division for supporting me when they met me out in the public. Congratulations to Mr. Gauff, I don't know if I should say that or that I feel sorry for you because sometimes it gets a little hectic but it is all fun. Thank you. If anyone needs anything from me I am just a phone call away."*

Councilman Millet led the Prayer and Councilman Julien led the Pledge.

Legal Counsels Tom Daley and William O'Reagan were present.

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"There was an item that was carried over from the finance meeting that we would like to take up right now. Mike Tregre/Stacey Cadore – Authorization to renew the Parish's Property, Casualty, General Liability and Risk Management Insurance with Riverlands Insurance Services for \$734,950.60 commencing on April 16, 2011."*

Mike Tregre, Director of Public Safety, stated, *"Administration requests authorization to renew the Parish's property, casualty, general liability, and risk management insurance policies through Riverlands Insurance Services. The Administration is satisfied that the agent shopped the market extensively for the best coverage available at affordable rates. The annual premium of \$734,950.60 represents a minimal increase of 1.3% over last year's rates."*

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to renew the Parish's Property,

Casualty, General Liability and Risk Management Insurance with Riverlands Insurance Services for \$734,950.60 commencing on April 16, 2011. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 abstaining (Lee & Cheryl Millet) and 2 absent (Usry & Smith).

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I would like to comment that I will be abstaining just to avoid any conflict of interest."

V. J. Rollo, Riverlands Insurance Services, stated, "We have the parishes and the fire departments workers comp with LWCC and each year LWCC declares a dividend. Somebody from LWCC had come down to present the checks but they were late to get to the first meeting and they had to get back to Baton Rouge so they asked me to make the presentations of the checks. I have one check for St. John the Baptist Parish in the amount of \$47,000.00 and another check for St. John the Baptist Parish Fire Department in the amount of \$25,000.00. These are just the papers Vince Lucia has the checks. I thank you and I thank you for the motion."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We would like to thank Mr. Rollo and his agency for working really hard to make sure that we stay in compliance and for the work you did on the presentation of the rates we received. I know he spent a lot of time working on them and then he spent at least an hour going over every detail with us and we are satisfied that that is the best that we can do for the parish at this time and of course we appreciate any dividend receipts that we have and Vince does have the checks. I have the paper copies."

Natalie Robottom – Proclamation – Declaring April as "Keep St. John Beautiful Month"

Natalie Robottom stated, "**WHEREAS**, Keep America Beautiful, Inc., is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping individuals improve their community environment, and has established the Great American Cleanup as its signature national effort for involving American citizens in environmental stewardship; and **WHEREAS**, the control of litter and litter prevention is vitally important to the quality of life in St. John the Baptist Parish; and **WHEREAS**, St. John the Baptist Parish is proud of its natural resources and seek to protect and improve our community through the action of our citizens, schools, government and businesses working together; and **WHEREAS**, St. John the Baptist Parish Council and Administration recognize the important commitment to improve American communities through litter prevention, beautification and solid waste management initiatives, and are committed to help spread the word about the importance of motivating everyone in our communities to become stewards of the environment; and **WHEREAS**, the Great American Clean-up Committee for St. John the Baptist Parish is asking all citizens to participate in the clean up event Saturday, April 16, 2011 and throughout the year; **NOW, THEREFORE, I, NATALIE ROBOTOM, Parish President** in conjunction with St. John the Baptist Parish Council Members do hereby proclaim April, 2011 as Keep St. John Beautiful Month in St. John the Baptist Parish."

Natalie Robottom – Proclamation – Declaring April as "Child Abuse Prevention" Month

Natalie Robottom stated, "WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a complex and ongoing problem in our society, affecting many children in our community; and WHEREAS, every child is entitled to be loved, cared for, nurtured, feel secure and be free from verbal, sexual, emotional and physical abuse, and neglect; and WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of every adult who comes in contact with a child to protect that child's inalienable right to a safe and nurturing childhood; and WHEREAS, St. John Parish has dedicated individuals and organizations who work daily to counter the problem of child maltreatment and to help parents obtain the assistance they need; and WHEREAS, our communities are stronger when all citizens become aware of child maltreatment prevention and become involved in supporting parents to raise their children in a safe and nurturing environment; and WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships among families, social service agencies, schools, religious and civic organizations, law enforcement agencies and the business community; and WHEREAS, all citizens, community agencies, faith organizations, businesses will work to increase their efforts to support families; NOW, THEREFORE, I, NATALIE ROBOTOM, in conjunction with St. John the Baptist Parish Council Members do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2011 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in St. John the Baptist Parish."

Natalie Robottom – Proclamation – Declaring April as "National 9-1-1 Education" Month

Natalie Robottom stated, "WHEREAS, 9-1-1 is nationally recognized as the number to call in an emergency to receive immediate help from Police, Firemen, EMS or other appropriate emergency response entities; and WHEREAS, in 1967, the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice recommended that a "single number should be established" nationwide for reporting emergency situations and other Federal Government Agencies and various governmental officials also supported and encouraged the recommendation; and WHEREAS, 9-1-1 was designated by Congress as the national emergency call number under the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-81); and WHEREAS, the 9-1-1 system is the connection between the eyes and ears of the public and the emergency response system in the U.S. and is often the first to know of emergencies of all magnitudes making 9-1-1 a significant Homeland Security asset; and WHEREAS, people of all ages use 9-1-1 and it is critical to educate the public of all ages on the proper use of 9-1-1; and WHEREAS, we as a nation should strive to annually host at least one educational event in every school in the country every year regarding the proper use of 9-1-1; and WHEREAS, Americans deserve the finest education we can offer regarding 9-1-1 education; NOW, THEREFORE, I, NATALIE ROBOTOM, Parish President in conjunction with St. John the Baptist Parish Council Members do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2011 as National 9-1-1 Education Month in St. John the Baptist Parish and urge the U.S. Congress and the Governors of all States and Territories to recognize April, 2011 as "National 9-1-1 Education Month"."

Natalie Robottom – Proclamation – Declaring April as "Fair Housing" Month

Natalie Robottom stated, "WHEREAS, the 43rd Anniversary of the National

Fair Housing Law, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, during the month of April, is an occasion for all Americans individually and collectively to rededicate themselves to the principle of freedom from housing discrimination whenever it exists; and **WHEREAS**, the National Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin; this law guarantees for each citizen the critical, personal element of freely choosing a home; and **WHEREAS**, fairness is the foundation of our way of life and reflects the best of our traditional American values; and **WHEREAS**, Americans should continue to work together to uphold the Fair Housing Act and the principle of equal opportunity on which it is based; and **WHEREAS**, a fair housing law has been passed by the State of Louisiana, and implementation of the law requires the positive commitment, involvement, and support of each of our citizens; and **WHEREAS**, the department and agencies of the State of Louisiana are to provide leadership in the effort to make fair housing not just an idea, but an ideal for all our citizens; and **WHEREAS**, barriers that diminish the rights and limit the options of any citizen to freely choose a home will ultimately diminish the rights and limit the options of all. **NOW, THEREFORE, I, NATALIE ROBOTOM, Parish President** in conjunction with St. John the Baptist Parish Council Members do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2011 as: **Fair Housing Month in St. John the Baptist Parish.**"

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes March 22nd, 2011, Regular Meeting

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes March 22nd, 2011, Regular Meeting. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry and Councilman Smith absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

11-12 An ordinance amending Section 105-25 of St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances as follows: Swimming pool fence requirements. (C. Millet)

Councilwoman Millet stated, "This is my ordinance and I would like to carry it over to the next meeting."

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

11-13 An ordinance ordering and calling a special election to be held in the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, to authorize an additional homestead exemption for certain disabled veterans and surviving spouses; making application to the State Bond Commission in connection therewith; and providing for other matters in connection therewith (R. Smith)

11-14 An ordinance amending Ordinance 10-27 relative to the Annual Operating Budget for the St. John the Baptist Parish Land Escrow Fund for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2010 (N. Robotom)

11-15 An ordinance amending Ordinance 10-28 relative to the Annual

Operating Budgets for the St. John the Baptist Parish Public Works Fund, Sales Tax District and LaPlace Volunteer Fire Department for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2010. (N. Robottom)

11-16 An ordinance amending Ordinance 10-29 relative to the Annual Operating Budgets for the St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund, Airport Authority, Ambulance Fund, ARC Maintenance Fund, Communication District, Convention Center, Criminal Court, Economic Development, Reserve Volunteer Fire Department, Garyville Volunteer Fire Department, West Bank Volunteer Fire Department, Office of Fire Services, Health Unit, Juvenile Detention, Mosquito Abatement, Parishwide Sewerage Construction, Public Safety, Senior Citizens, Solid Waste, Street Lights, Wastewater, Water Distribution System and Recreation Fund for the Fiscal year ending December 31, 2010. (N. Robottom)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Lee stated, *"We met this afternoon at 5:30 to discuss any and all financial matters for the parish. We had a lengthy agenda. It contained fifteen items requiring action of the finance committee. I would ask at this time that I get a motion from one of my fellow council members to approve the actions taken at this meeting."*

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry and Councilman Smith absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Ronnie Smith – Update on sewerage on Central Avenue in Reserve

Councilman Smith's item will be carried over to the next agenda.

Ronnie Smith – Update on ICU Leadership project – O.J. Breech

Councilman Smith's item will be carried over to the next agenda.

Jaclyn Hotard – Carrollwood Drive Construction

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"I placed this item on the agenda. There is some construction going on at LaPlace Elementary and for a while some of the trucks have been using Carrollwood Drive instead of coming up through Fairway. As you know Carrollwood Drive is just an asphalt road so I had asked the contractor several months ago if they could instruct their people to use the alternate route of coming through Belle Terre up Fairway that way and it seemed like the traffic had decreased but it is still continuing. I just placed this item on the agenda to bring it back to their attention again that we would like for them to come in through the other way. I have had several calls and if you drive on Carrollwood you can see that since the construction has started there are several holes that have formed just because that road wasn't designed to handle those types of trucks."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"We appreciate that Ms. Hotard and we did*

follow up with Dr. Millet who has sent copies, and I will be happy to share those with you, we did speak extensively with them I think when Mr. Oncale was here he actually met with the contractors and they distributed to their vendors the directions, the map and the requirement. Obviously there has been a lapse there. I have a commitment from both the project manager and Dr. Millet that they will revisit this and we will have someone go out to the site to make those concerns known. It is not just a matter of traffic. The road cannot take it and there is some damage being caused to that asphalt drive. So we are going to ask that they work very diligently to make sure that those contractors and sub contractors use the route that was designated."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay I would also at the same time like to make a request maybe to our public works department. I know there are still some areas that need to be repaired but if we could do a total assessment of the road and the damages that we have incurred since that construction has started just to see if we are going to continue patching it up or at some point we are going to look at re overlaying that road. If I can get something back from our public works department once they go out and make an assessment."

Charles Julien – Update on street overlay

Councilman Julien stated, "Basically I am trying to find out from administration when we intend to start working with the street overlays. We signed the contract some time ago. So we are just trying to find out when they will actually start work on the streets that we have designated."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We finalized the council members priority list during our workshops a few weeks ago and our Parish Engineer has a list of all the roads and is drafting specifications for the repair work to develop cost estimates. That should be done fairly soon. Once we have that we are going to prioritize those based on the funding available and the contractor is ready and prepared to begin that work. Initially when we signed the contract he was involved in a state project but is now available and we wanted to give him the entire list instead of submitting one or two streets at a time. So we anticipate that being completed within the next week and they should be ready to start this month."

Councilman Julien asked, "By the end of the month, next week?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Before the end of April."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Mrs. Robottom is this the same company that is doing our concrete repairs too?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "No actually Coastal has the asphalt contract and DMC has the concrete and they have already started."

Councilman Gauff asked, "Being new to this, have the streets already been chosen that they are going to overlay?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We have a request list by district and we will be happy to share that with you and if there is something else

that you would like to add we will obviously take a look at that but we will share that list with you."

Charles Julien – Drainage & drainage contracts

Councilman Julien stated, "We have the drainage issues basically all over the parish. I see Councilman Smith had something on Central Avenue. So that is a hot item that has been there for a long time. Homewood is an item that has been there for a long time, especially now that we aren't going to be able to start the project. We will have some drainage issues there but the one thing that I would ask administration to do is try to start the project for drainage issues as far as digging and what not because we do have a contract there. We would like to start those if we could as soon as possible. As I mentioned those two areas Central and Homewood, I have a petition here. All these signatures of individuals in the Reserve area, they have backed up sewerage, they have water coming into their homes. We are talking about trying to redefine the system and make sure that the system works for the tax payers but at this point the fiscal responsibility becomes a nuisance to the individuals that have the problems, to the individuals that have water backing up into their homes and have sewerage coming and we are constantly saying that we are going to get this stuff done but we don't get it done. So I am asking now when will we be able to tell the people of Central, Homewood and Reserve that we will be starting with the drainage because that is going to alleviate some of the pressure. I know that Homewood won't be able to get done right now and we understand that but if we show them that we are working for them because I have been told the stuff so many times I don't even know if I believe myself. When I tell these people, they come and say you have been saying this and I keep saying in another month or so we will get started but we don't get started. I had one of my constituents come up and ask me to take a Central Avenue oath. I said well what is it? He said go home and don't flush your toilet. Just for tonight. At that point I said I couldn't do it. So what is a small problem to the individuals who don't have to deal with the problem is nothing. It is huge to individuals that have to endure that time and time and time again. Then we have the elderly with water coming into their homes. What we have to do is stand up and say okay we have pushed them aside long enough, in all these areas, we have pushed them aside long enough and here are the signatures right here. I could have come here with a thousand signatures. Here are the signatures from the Reserve area. That isn't even Homewood or Central. So we do need to do something and we need to do it as soon as we can. Thank you."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Mr. Julien we obviously appreciate your concern and we are working towards getting several projects done. You addressed a couple of issues on the sewerage as well as the drainage. With regards to Central Avenue, we have had contact with some of the residents and it has been a number of years that they have had problems. We have instituted a couple of interim steps right now. We have identified about a hundred sources of inflow in the Central area so we are installing a diesel pump there to help with I/I during heavy rains. We are also replacing one of two pumps in that lift station and are in the process of RFPing I/I repairs to that entire Central area and we are going to start on Central. That is one aspect of helping with the sewerage. Obviously the drainage is a bigger problem. The Homewood project was designed to address Central as well as Homewood."

We do have a delay in starting that project but it will get started and those residents will receive the help that they need. With regards to our annual drainage contract, the contract has been signed. The contractor has met with our public works office and is in the process of getting estimates for the drainage projects that he will be assigned. As with every project, everything is based on the available funding so we need the estimates so we can assign the work and remain within our budget. I don't think it is going to take very long. The contractor who received the contract has worked in the parish before. He is very familiar with that as a system. We anticipate getting those estimates back and beginning that work within the week."

Councilman Julien stated, "As we have a contract, is there anyway as our parish president that you could say we want to start these streets tomorrow to show these people good faith. Because the beaurocracy turns into negligence. If we don't work for those people and work for those people now it turns into negligence. We can say that we want to go out and get quotes or whatever we have to get for streets but the bottom line is that there is a contract in place. We have unit prices on the contract. So of what importance or urgency do we have to have them go out before they even start the work?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "It is generally tied to accountability and fiscal responsibility. Although there are hourly rates there is no way to determine the number of hours or no way for us in house to determine a number of hours that it would take to clean a certain street or a number of drainage ditches. As I said we don't anticipate this taking very long. The contractor has met with our staff and is in the process of giving those estimates. We are prepared to move forward when he submits any of the numbers that we have requested."

Councilman Julien stated, "I want the tax payers to understand that I do respect my parish president and I support you 110% but we definitely need to act on the contract. We need to act on the drainage in these issues because as they say the fiscal responsibility has been that way since Mr. Hubbard, then we had buddy and now here we go again. I am not trying to be disrespectful to you because I respect you whole heartedly but the bottom line is that the work is not getting done. We do have a contract and the people want to see work getting done. I rest."

Natalie Robottom stated, "They will."

Charles Julien – Small Business, local business/diversity program

Councilman Julien stated, "Basically I just wanted to inform my fellow council members that I would like to look into maybe getting an expert to draw up an ordinance or whatever we need to give us some teeth in what we have for small and local businesses. We have a lot of business going on in the parish. Our locals and small business people just do not get the work. We have engineers in my opinion that double as inspectors. They are engineers and inspectors. So who is inspecting them while they are inspecting themselves? They have way too much power. They have way too much clout on individuals who come from other parishes and work in our parish. Our local people cannot get work. A prime example is the work that is going on right now in District II. We have dust flying every where. We have individuals who will not clean the streets. Mr. Rayneri I would like to ask how many water pipes or

gas pipes has this company broken in the name of not working other individuals because they feel like they may not be qualified. So I would ask that you come to the microphone and tell me how many water or gas lines have they broken."

Virgil Rayneri, Director of Utilities, stated, "Mr. Julien I don't really have a precise number but it has been about four or five but no gas lines. It is a very complex system under there because it is like tentacles in there. They have so many lines and they have been there for forty years. It is really complicated but we are working on it and it is not perfect. You sat in one of our meetings and you know the rules that we have. We always take care of the residents. We are getting ready to have another meeting tomorrow you are welcome to come. This is mostly a drainage project however I am involved with it because there are so many water lines and things of that nature."

Councilman Julien stated, "I want to apologize to you. I don't want to put you under the gun. You are working hard for us. The individuals that come into our parish, we work for the tax payers. If it is wrong to want our local people working then I will be wrong. The bottom line is that they have to be fair with our communities. Thank you."

OLD BUSINESS:

Charles Julien – (Carry Over 3-22-11) Override Planning and Zoning for a denial for trailer placement for Tiffany Davis, 167 E. 14th Street in Reserve

Councilman Julien asked that this item be carried over to the next agenda.

Councilman Lee excused himself from the meeting at 7:16 PM.

NEW BUSINESS:

Marie Brown-Mercadel/Mike Tregre – Resolution – R11-15 – A Resolution authorizing the Parish President to execute an agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) for improvements at the St. John the Baptist Parish Airport

Mike Tregre stated, "Administration requests authorization to execute this agreement with DOTD for the purpose of completing an airport master plan study. The federal Aviation Administration will provide up to 90% of the funding and the DOTD will provide up to 10% of the funding."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "At no cost to the parish is what you are saying."

Mike Tregre stated, "Absolutely."

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to accept Resolution R11-15 - A Resolution authorizing the Parish President to execute an Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) for improvements at the St. John the Baptist Parish Airport. **WHEREAS**, Act 451 of the 1989 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature authorized the financing of

certain airport improvements from funds appropriated from the Transportation Trust Fund; and **WHEREAS**, the St. John the Baptist Parish Council has requested funding assistance from the LA DOTD to conduct an airport master plan study; and **WHEREAS**, the stated project has been approved by the Louisiana Legislature and the LA DOTD is agreeable to the implementation of this project and desires to cooperate with the St. John the Baptist Parish Council according to the terms and conditions identified in the attached agreement; and **WHEREAS**, the FAA will provide up to 90% of the necessary funding, and the LA DOTD will provide up to 10% of the necessary funding. **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council that it does hereby authorize the Parish President to execute an agreement for the project identified as AIP No. 3-22-0064-14-2010 and SPN H.009031, more fully identified in the agreement attached hereto. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry and Councilmen Smith & Lee absent.

Ronnie Smith/Dale Wolfe – Update on Housing Authority

Dale Wolfe, Housing Authority Director, stated, "First of all I would like to congratulate Mr. Gauff on his victory. Happy days. I came here for two reasons. Number one to update the council and administration on what is going on in housing and secondly to clear my name and let the general public know what I am all about and what is going on in housing. I was very disturbed in receiving two letters from the chairman of the Housing Authority Board of Commission. I am quite sure you all received the same letter. I am quite sure you all evaluated what was on the letter. The letter was attacking my credibility and saying where I should go. When I should go there, what I should say or what I shouldn't say. In other words some folks on that board were in the habit of controlling folks. I can't control myself so how in the world am I going to let two people control me. I am happy that I see one of the members here tonight because I don't like talking behind people's back. I have been given a job. I haven't been given the tools to do the job. As you all know with the first board I caught particular hell. The second board we have three good members. Three members that are willing to work on behalf of the agency and behalf of the tenants, etc. but I continuously get correspondence from one of the commissioners, the chairman in particular. There is no sense in beating around the bush. As far as I am concerned I was threatened that if I was to come here tonight my job would be in jeopardy. Well I tell you what let it be in jeopardy because I am here in living color. I don't make any bones about it. I went there to do a job. I felt as though if I had the board behind me and my staff behind me that we could do the job. If you are going to tie my hands by introducing a resolution to have a hiring freeze when I got there I didn't have a secretary. I didn't have a maintenance person. I didn't have a finance person and were we in trouble in Section 8. Now I don't have a maintenance person, finance is doing well, and it is going to take some time to do that. We are still behind in Section 8. Instead of the board coming to the agency and saying what is it we can do to help bring this agency up to where it should be and help the tenants. They write letters everyday. They interfere with the everyday operations of the agency. We have to take our staff that is limited and do research and get them reports that they don't need immediately but we have to do that. We have folks coming from HUD. They were supposed to spend one week. They spent four weeks and they are coming back again. We have to do research. We have to find contracts. We have to find cancelled checks. There is a million

dollars that we have to find where it went and what did we spend it on. We inherited that. That isn't my fault. We have a water problem. That is a big issue. Folks calling HUD asking about the water bill. That isn't the first time that this has happened but they want to make and project to the general public that since Dale Wolfe got there there hasn't been anything but bills, bills, bills can't pay the bills. We have a problem in terms of the board accepting the budget. As you all know every year this council is responsible for adopting a budget. We adopt a budget if there is any problem or shortfall you amend the budget. There is no such a thing, as far as I am concerned in government that you are going to adopt a balanced budget. You see those folks act like they don't understand that. When you don't adopt a budget with HUD they lock up all of your finances. That means you cannot get into the finances. I have four people in maintenance. I have thirty-nine units that we need to bring up. That is not enough personnel to bring those units up and critical units. We need really a contractor to come in and bring the units up. That is where you get your money. Where the financing comes from. I am here tonight to let you all know that I went to housing to do a job. I want to let you all know that I haven't been given the tools to do the job. So if them folks want to criticize or they have a hidden agenda then so be it. I told one of the board members, you are on a mission to seek and destroy, but you aren't going to destroy Dale Wolfe. My character, my reputation will stay in tact. I will never ever let two people bring me down and I am telling you exactly how it is. The news media should get a copy of the letter that was sent to me and do an investigation. They said that I poled the commissioners to cancel a meeting. I poled the commissioners and I asked my secretary, Mrs. Watkins, to call each and every commissioner and ask could they reschedule the meeting because the finance person was ill. Now if you don't respect sickness than good God almighty. That person turned it around saying that I got involved in cancelling the meeting. I asked that the meeting be rescheduled because we needed time to get with the finance person to get all of the information that they needed. That is all that happened. Then I get another correspondence saying if I attend the meeting tonight in short my job will be in jeopardy. Well good God almighty again. How low can you go? So if it is in jeopardy tonight call the rest of the board members, I am not begging and take care of their job. Take my job away from me, as a matter of fact, last week I called HUD and I asked for some technical assistance or come in and take over the agency because the way it is going now I cannot manage it. I don't have the maintenance personnel to handle it. I don't have the cooperation of some of my staff members to handle it. So how can I move? I cannot move. I cannot gee nor haw. So if that be the case then the two board members that I am talking about let them take my job. I go home. I don't smoke. I used to smoke. I get me a big cigar put it in my mouth and lay back. I am not here for any foolishness. If you have a vendetta take it out on me without involving the agency or the tenants. If you are there to help the agency and tenants than act that way and give your full cooperation, don't take pot shots. If I have done you something wrong approach me and let's deal with it but all that is in those two reports, the only word that I can use is lies. If you don't believe me check behind me and see with the other board members if I didn't call each and every one of them. As a matter of fact four board members said they would agree to reschedule the meeting but the letter says that I didn't contact all the board members. That isn't true. So news media, you love to give news, give it the right way, do the

investigation. I challenge you to do the investigation of those two memos I received and the council received. With that in mind I want to thank you all for allowing me here tonight. I wanted to say I will see you all in October but I am not going to clown tonight because this is a serious matter. I hope and pray this council before I forget it was recommended to this council to remove all five board members, not four, but five. One was brought back. I stayed out of it because I said I wasn't going to get involved in it. Whatever Mr. Morris did he did on his own. I didn't say anything but now I am saying the recommendation was to remove all five, not four, all five. We have one still on there that should be gone and forgotten. Thank you."

Natalie Robottom/Hugh Martin – Resolution – R11-16 – A Resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of not to exceed \$3,500,000 aggregate principal amount of Water Revenue Refunding Bonds, of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana; providing certain terms of said bonds; making application to the State Bond Commission for approval of said Bonds; and providing for other matters in connection therewith

Natalie Robottom stated, "Administration requests approval of this resolution to begin the process of refinancing Water Revenue Bonds from the 1999 issue. Completion of this process should result in a projected savings to the Parish of \$400,000.00."

Hugh Martin, Bond Attorney, stated, "She adequately explained the basis and purpose to this resolution. Basically this is the first step in an attempt to refinance these bonds which were issued in 1999. The resolution authorizes the submission of an application to the state bond commission for authority to go forward with the financing and once the approval is obtained we will come back to you with an actual proposal to accomplish the refinancing. Based on the current estimate of interest rates which in affect now the savings which Mrs. Robottom advised you of earlier what we expect can be saved in interest that you would otherwise pay if you didn't do this refunding. As most of you have been through this before the refunding is very similar to renegotiating a mortgage on your home. If you have a home that the interest rates are higher than the prevailing rates are now you can refinance by getting a new mortgage and interest rates which are lower than what you were paying and using the new loan to pay off the old loan. This works exactly the same way. We have been successful in the past with accomplishing this. The only caution I have at this time is that there are a lot of experts in finance who are expecting interest rates to go up. There has been a little spike. So far it is not enough to prevent this from occurring but we are always subject to the market fluctuations but by getting the approval from the bond commission now we will be poised when the market is right to go forward and right now we think it is right. If you have any questions I will be happy to answer them."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Are we extending the terms?"

Hugh Martin stated, "We are not extending. It is the same terms."

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to accept Resolution R11-16. A resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of not to exceed Three

Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,500,000) aggregate principal amount of Water Revenue Refunding Bonds, of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana; providing certain terms of said bonds; making application to the State Bond Commission for approval of said Bonds; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry and Councilmen Smith & Lee absent.

Natalie Robottom/Hugh Martin – Resolution – R11-17 – A Resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of not to exceed \$4,500,000 of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana; providing certain terms of said bonds; making application to the State Bond Commission for approval of said bonds; and providing for other matters in connection therewith

Natalie Robottom stated, *"This is very similar to what we just discussed however it is in reference to the General Obligation Bonds from 2002. Again the completion of this process will result in a projected savings to the parish of about \$200,000.00."*

Hugh Martin stated, *"My remarks will be the same for this one."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to accept Resolution R11-17. A resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of not to exceed Four Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$4,500,000) of General Obligation Refunding Bonds of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, making application to the State Bond Commission for approval of said Bonds; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

Ronnie Smith/Kevin Belanger – Re-apportionment

Kevin Belanger, SCP, stated, *"I am going to be brief. Those of you who were in attendance over the past few weeks on the meetings that we have held on the West Bank and the East Bank. We have also held meetings with the parish council to illustrate the areas of interest whether it be for recreation, infrastructure, commonalities of communities. I have before you that I provided a delineation of all the maps that we have created for that also we want to let the public know that we have here in the chambers and will be housed in the council office for any of the public's viewing hard copies of those maps which are large in scale which can be seen. For those of you who are aware that we were required to re-apportion this year, there was a substantial increase in the deviation of all the districts. There was a lot of population shifting. Just to recap some of those particular issues. Back in 2000 there were 43,044 people in the parish of St. John, now there are 45,924. The unique thing about this is back in 2000 there was 45.11% black population total and in 2010 54% of the total population. We have provided to you the existing map which is there today which you have run by. We also have the divisions. I will be very brief in talking about the alternative plans that we have provided for you for your consideration in the future. Alternative 1 basically we heard varying desires from the council and from the public for that matter. Some wanted the West Bank to stay in tact. Some wanted it to be divided."*

Some wanted it to include a fourth minority district which we are able to do with the population and some wanted to keep a lot of like communities together. The alternate 1 basically provides the least amount of tweaking to the existing districts to keep all of the varying councilmatic districts within overall deviation. We have also looked at the division which is the second piece of alternate 1 which is also not a requirement at this time. I didn't cover it but I would like to go back to the first page and you will notice that in 2000 in the percentage off there is a negative 4.36 deviation in Division A and a positive 4.36 deviation in Division B. Both of these numbers do not require those to be reapportioned, however through our process we do give you alternatives to consider. Alternate 2 was the delineation of districts. There was a lot of concern from some of the councilmen. Why do we have to represent the West Bank and have such a long area to travel to be able to represent the area right near the southern portion on the east side of St. John. So what we wanted to show was the reality of creating a district on the West Bank and also providing for the ease of access for that councilman to access the West Bank and by doing that what you basically create is a pressure of all the other districts having to be shuffled down river to be able to allow for the expansion of District I in the Garyville area. That ultimately creates a lot of changes within the communities however we were able to stay within deviation. If you look at the alternative division you will see that there is a meandering tentacles and by the way when you create reapportionment plans, all plans have to be continuous in nature. In other words they have to attach by keeping that you are creating a lot of division of communities but we wanted to show you for the purposes of discussion. If you turn to alternate 3, you will see that this is the plan by which we divided both the West Bank and the East Bank to show how varying all of these particular plans could be. In the initial meetings with the council it was somewhat of a consensus and real interest in alternate 1 and from those meetings and from the public meetings we heard that there was some concern for adding minority concentration. So we were able to accomplish that but alternate 1 if you look at District 7 and District 6 there were some changes to the upper portion where we tried to rearrange part of District 7 to keep that area in tact. Alternate 1B was the interest of trying to provide for higher concentration of minorities but in such while doing that we did carve up some of these areas pretty badly. It was at the public hearing that we held here on the East Bank that one of the councilmen asked for us to explore that even further. If you look at alternate 1C this provides for a very good overall deviation however it doesn't accomplish some of the things that the councilmen had wanted to keep in certain areas. What we were able to do by providing this, especially in District 4 which is housed now by a non-minority which will become from the plans that we have derived another minority seat enabling this particular body to be governed by 55% African American and in District 4 we were able to achieve a 59% minority/majority. So with that being said again we have the hard copies. I do want to make the council aware that May 20th is the drop dead day that we have to have in the hands at the Department of Justice your submission. If you gave me a map approved on May 19th, there is no way that we can achieve that in one day. We need three weeks in order to build the submission document so by moving back in time of your meeting dates April 26th is the date that we would respectfully request an approval of a plan. On May 10th we will be back on your agenda for the approvals of the legal descriptions that we will create after you approve a plan by which we will ask you to

approve the legal descriptions for the voting precincts as well as the polling locations, as well as the descriptions for the individual districts. So with that being said I will entertain any questions."

Councilman Julien asked, *"In alternative 1C, is Riverlands Estates on the West Bank? I think that was moving from District 4 in 1C and 1B."*

Kevin Belanger stated, *"Yes they are. In 1B they are in District 5."*

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"Mr. Belanger I would ask that you be available with the councilmen so that we can get together with you and discuss this before our April 26th, meeting if possible."*

Marie Brown-Mercadel – Resolution – R11-18 – A Resolution allowing St. John Parish to declare that April 25-30, 2011 has been designated as National Community Development Week

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, *"Administration requests authorization to declare April 25-30 as National Community Development Week, acknowledging that St. John Parish has been a participant in the CDBG program which funds public infrastructure, economic development and housing programs to local governments and residents, principally those of low-to-moderate income. The theme of this year's celebration is "25 years showcasing CDBG", and what it has done for St. John Parish over the years."*

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to accept Resolution R11-18. A Resolution allowing St. John Parish to declare that April 25-30, 2011 has been designated as National Community Development Week. **WHEREAS**, the week of April 25 – April 30, 2011 has been designated as National Community Development Week. St. John the Baptist Parish is/has been a participant in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program which funds public infrastructure, economic development, and housing programs in this community, and; **WHEREAS**, in this community and communities throughout the nation, thirty-five years of Community Development Block Grant Program funding has developed a strong relationship between this local government and its residents, principally those of low-to-moderate income, and; **WHEREAS**, this community recognizes that the Community Development Block Grant Program is a partnership of federal, state, and local government and community and business efforts, and that the services funded by the CDBG Program relies heavily on the dedication and good will of our combined efforts, and; **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that during *National Community Development Week* 2011, this community will give special thanks and recognition to all participants whose hard work and devotion to the neighborhoods and their low- and moderate-income residents help ensure the quality and effectiveness of the Community Development Block Grant Program, and; **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this community, along with the service providers and others whose names are appended to this resolution, hereby petition the U.S. Congress and Administration to recognize the outstanding work being done locally and nationally by the Community Development Block Grant Program, and of its vital importance to the community and to the people who live in its lower income neighborhoods, and; **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be conveyed to the appropriate elected and appointed officials of the federal government and that this community's name be added to the roll of those committed to the

preservation and full funding of the Community Development Block Grant Program and maintenance of its essential features over the course of the next session of Congress. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry and Councilmen Smith & Lee absent.

Marie Brown-Mercadel – Resolution – R11-19 – A Resolution allowing St. John Parish to submit a loan application to Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality in the amount not to exceed \$1,356,000.00 for repair work in the wastewater collection system in the cities of Reserve and LaPlace

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, *“Administration requests authorization to submit a loan application to the LA Department of Environmental Quality for I/I (Inflow & Infiltration) repair work in the wastewater collection system in Reserve and LaPlace. These funds will compliment other funding sources to make needed repairs to the collection systems. The loan will be re-paid out of the Waste Water Account.”*

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to accept Resolution R11-19. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to submit a loan application for the I/I repair work in the wastewater collection system in the cities of Reserve and LaPlace. **WHEREAS**, St. John the Baptist Parish desires to provide Wastewater Collection System Improvements which will reduce the wastewater loading on the River Road Treatment Plant, and; **WHEREAS**, all work is to be done in accordance with specifications provided by the Parish Engineer and the Utilities Department Management, and; **WHEREAS**, there is no local match required for this LILDEQ loan, and; **WHEREAS**, the Parish does agree to accept liability for any improvements made through this project; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the St. John the Baptist Council does hereby authorize the Parish President to sign and submit a request for funding through the LADEQ in an amount up to \$1,356,000 eligible expenses to improve the gravity wastewater collection system by minimizing inflow and infiltration. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Parish does authorize C.J. Savoie, Parish Engineer, to provide basic data and for the line repairs on the gravity wastewater collection system for the said proposal. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry and Councilmen Smith & Lee absent.

Natalie Robottom – Appointment of two new board members to the Firefighters Civil Service Board. The administration recommends: Southeastern Louisiana University Appointment – Sean Doody

Natalie Robottom stated, *“Administration requests approval of Mr. Sean Doody, as Southeastern Louisiana University’s recommended appointment to the Firefighter Civil Service Board. It is very important that we move forward with this the board is made up of three appointments and there is only one right now. Mr. Tregre did submit a recommendation for council approval.”*

Councilwoman Millet stated, *“We didn’t receive anything yet. If you could have that information forwarded to the council and we will place this on the next agenda.”*

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to accept administration’s recommendation and Southeastern

Louisiana University Appointment – Sean Doody. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry and Councilmen Smith & Lee absent.

CORRESPONDANCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Gauff stated, "I really don't have a lot to say. It has been a learning experience but I welcome the challenge. So I thank you."

Councilman Millet stated, "I wanted to let the people in Reserve know since we are doing all of this drainage in the old Reserve area to be a little patient. I know we are having some problems with dust and different things. Just bare with us for another month or two and we will have that taken care of."

Councilman Julien stated, "I know Councilman Smith is watching. I just wanted to tell you hurry up and get well because we miss you. I would like to encourage everyone to come out, I know the parish president will speak on Clean Sweep 2011. OLG will be cleaning up and trying to beautify District III. I want to encourage the people of District III to work hard to keep our district up. Also I would like to encourage people to participate in the minor housing program with Ms. Elois Joseph. I would also like to thank Mrs. Peggy for her hard work in reminding me about the program and to make sure that I did tell the individuals of the parish about the program. If you have any minor repairs or roofing repairs please contact Ms. Joseph because she has money to help."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "The only comment I have would be to congratulate our newly elected Councilman-at-Large, Lucien Gauff and to welcome you to the council."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I echo that comment as well. It is going to be a pleasure working with you Mr. Gauff."

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Natalie Robottom stated, "I would also like to welcome our new board member Mr. Lucien Gauff and of course give our thanks to Mr. Morris for his service. We would also like to acknowledge and recognize the committee for Relay for Life. They raised over \$70,000.00 at the event and of course everyone who attended to help fight cancer. As I mentioned earlier April is Autism Awareness Month and we are encouraging all the parish to wear blue on Friday's to raise awareness about autism and for more information you can visit their website at www.autism-society.org. As part of an environmental impact study for the proposed connector between Airline Highway and I-10 in Reserve an origin destination survey will begin tomorrow April 13th, the purpose of the survey is to determine how motorists get to and from I-10 in Reserve. Everyone is encouraged to complete the four question survey and return it by mail. There is no postage necessary and the survey results will help determine the best location for a new interstate access corridor. Surveyors will be handing out cards at the following locations Marathon Avenue at Airline Highway, W. 19th Street and Airline Highway, Rosenwald Street and Airline Highway, Louisiana 637 at Airline, Louisiana 53 at Airline, Homewood Place at Airline and Louisiana 3179 at Airline Highway. So again we encourage you to please pick up a card and provide a response and mail it back in. We would

like to congratulate Mr. Randy DeSoto for being chosen as the president of the Louisiana Library Association. Mr. DeSoto is the long time library director for St. John the Baptist Parish. We would also like to announce that we were one of nine parishes that was awarded funding through DOTD's Safe Routes to school program. The award is for approximately \$250,000.00 to make improvements near LaPlace Elementary School. The project is to construct sidewalks, cross walks and school warning signs as well as to provide bike and pedestrian safety classes. St. John's third annual clean sweep is this Saturday, April 16th, if you haven't called please call Dana Milioto at 985-652-9569. There will be food at the Hwy 51 park after. We are encouraging all of our residents to help Keep St. John Beautiful by reporting littering by calling 1-888-litterbug. The Health & Human Services Department is scheduling appointments for the minor home repair program. Applicants must be 60 years old or disabled and must live in Reserve, Garyville or Mt. Airy. Appointments are being scheduled this week from 9:00 until 3:00 so please call 985-535-4955 to schedule an appointment. The Louisiana State Police are holding a free baseball camp this Saturday at Regala Park in Reserve. The camp is open to boys and girls ages 7-14 and will cover baseball fundamentals. The recreation department and HHS department are currently seeking part time employees for their summer camp and feeding programs. You can visit our website for information or call 985-652-9569. Easter in the Parks will take place Saturday, April 23rd from 11-1. The public is invited to attend and participate in the activities. We encourage you to come out and enjoy the festivities. All parish offices will be closed April 22nd for the Easter holidays and we want to wish everyone a safe and Happy Easter."

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Cable Franchise Agreement

Any and all pending legal matters

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:08 PM, Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry and Councilmen Smith & Lee absent.

/s/Cheryl Millet
COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary

