

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, April 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2010**  
**CHAIR RONNIE SMITH**  
**VICE CHAIR CHERYL MILLET**

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:** Haston Lewis, Councilman District I, Darnel Usry, Councilwoman District V, Charles Julien, Councilman District III, Ronnie Smith, Councilman District VI, Cheryl Millet, Councilwoman District VII, Steve Lee, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilwoman District IV, Danny Millet, Councilman District II, Dale Wolfe, Councilman-at-Large, Div. A

**ABSENT:** None

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

Legal Counsels Jeff Perilloux and Kerry Brown were present.

**Consent Agenda**

**Items:** Approval of Minutes April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval – Block Party – Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 3 PM to 8 PM – St. Andrews & Concordia Drive

**MOTION:** Councilman Julien moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes – April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval – Block Party – Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 3 PM to 8 PM – St. Andrews & Concordia Drive. The motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

There were no ordinances.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**10-09** An Ordinance to amend Code of Ordinances – 27:166 – Section B Lot Size Conformance to read the following – “No lot shall be less than 21,780 sq. ft.” (C. Millet)

**10-11** An Ordinance authorizing a monthly travel allowance for the Parish President in the amount of eight hundred dollars (\$800.00) should the Parish President elect to use his/her own personal vehicle for official parish business in lieu of receiving a Parish-supplied vehicle for this purpose. Said travel allowance shall cover all expenses of the vehicle to include fuel, tires, maintenance, repairs, parts, and insurance. (P. McTopy)

**10-12** An Ordinance to provide for executive assistants, as follows:  
The Parish President shall be allowed to appoint not more than Two (2) executive assistants who shall be employed as non-civil Service employees, and who shall be responsible to him alone, as Provided for in Section 2:105 (C)(2)(a) of the Parish's Home Rule Charter. (D. Wolfe)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Lee stated, "At 5:45 PM this evening the finance committee met. At this time, I would ask for a motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee from one of my fellow council members."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "As much as I was late in arriving, I am abstaining from the finance approval because I was not here for most of the meeting."

**MOTION:** Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to award the bid for drainage excavation to Ram-J Construction, approved to take the bids for Historic East St. in Garyville and N.W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. in Reserve under advisement, approved to take the two (2) bids for residential electrical repairs (ARRA) weatherization assistance program under advisement, approved to take the bids for the Reserve Boat Launch improvements under advisement, approved to take the bids for the membranes for the Reverse Osmosis Unit under advisement, approved to grant administration authorization of final acceptance for the St. John the Baptist Parish Airport, Airfield Lighting and NAVAIDS Improvement, approved to grant administration authorization to execute a contract with GSA Consulting Engineers for the West Shore Lac Des Allemands Shoreline Protection (CIAP) Project, approved to grant administration authorization to execute a contract with URS for the Reserve Relief Canal (CIAP) Project, approved to grant administration authorization to advertise for the Country Club bridge replacement project as part of the 2009 Bond Issue, approved to grant administration authorization to execute a contract with Compliance Enviro Systems, LLC (CES) for the Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey, approved the change order for the Edgard raw water intake line, approved to grant administration authorization to extend the Acadian Ambulance contract through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and approved to grant administration authorization to go out for RFP's for Parish wide Ambulance Service. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 abstention (Cheryl Millet).

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

**Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters**

There were no personnel matters at this time.

**Dale Wolfe - Contracts**

Councilman Wolfe requested that this item be carried over to the next meeting.

Pat McTopy, Acting Parish President, stated, "I would like to discuss the legislative compliance audit that recently was made public. There were four (4) items of concern that the legislative auditor pointed out to the parish and made certain recommendations for corrective action. The first had to do with the parts that were purchased for the parishes sewer pumps. These were parts that were needed to do repair work on our pumps. As you know we have two hundred plus (200+) sewer lift stations, many of which have multiple pumps in them, different sizes, different manufactures. There are tens of thousands of parts that the auditor recommended that we take an inventory of those that we are going to need on a regular basis that exceed the bid threshold and publicly bid them. Mrs. Labat in purchasing will be working towards doing that. I want the council to know that nothing different was done in the last two (2) years than what had been done prior to that. Whatever pumps were needed by the persons repairing these pumps purchased the parts and billed the parish for them. So we didn't do anything different then we had done in the recent past. The second one was relative to the credit card policy or credit card uses. As you are aware, back in 2008 administration spent a lot of time and did a lot of research, our human resources department did a lot of research contacting other communities and parishes to determine how they handle their travel policies. We spent many weeks and in fact months evaluating other policies. We came up with what we thought was a good policy for St. John Parish. We presented it to this council and you all adopted it. As a result of the compliance audit, the auditor has recommended certain things to tighten up if you will or to tweak on it. Essentially it revolved around two (2) things. Number one (1) approval of various credit card transactions by upper levels. For example, if one of our civil service employees was to use the parish credit card, the director would approve that receipt. If the director used the credit card, the finance officer or chief would approve that. If the chief or finance officer use the credit card than the president would approve that. So there were layers of approval that the auditor has recommended that we implement that was not part of the existing policy. We are going to hand out to you tonight recommended changes that you all can consider to incorporate that. Again nothing was done in the last twenty-seven (27) months that has not been done in the past. The next item has to do with the parish president's car allowance. Under the existing policy, the parish president was allowed, because the president had no parish vehicle at the time, was allowed a car allowance to use his own vehicle in the amount of Eight Hundred dollars (\$800.00) per month. The policy was unclear regarding if it was to include gasoline, insurance, flat tires, etc. The past practice was followed in terms of the gasoline. The parish president used the parish credit card to purchase gasoline, just as has been done in the past. The auditor recommended that we specifically identify what items will be subject to reimbursement. We have an ordinance that was introduced tonight to address that issue. The final recommendation involved the parish dental insurance coverage that was approved back in 2008. I am not privy to a lot of the discussions that went on at that time. The auditor made his statement. We made our response. If there was any wrong doing I am sure the persons involved are going to have to account for any wrong doing. I will point out that the tax payers and citizens of St. John Parish received a 6-8% decrease as a result of the dollar per month savings on each of the parish employees that participated in the dental plan. So again tonight we are taking steps to comply with the recommendations of

*the legislative auditor in terms of the credit card policy, in terms of the approval of credit card receipts and in terms of the parish president's use of his vehicle."*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Cheryl Millet – Resolution – R10-20 – A Resolution to set the Parish President's salary at its current level such that there shall be no additional automatic increase**

*Councilwoman Millet stated, "The purpose of this resolution is to allow future councils to give the parish president a raise. In my opinion, I feel that it is unfair for future councils to be tied in to something that this council did. I am asking my fellow council members to allow there be no automatic. The increase is still there however they would have to bring it before the council for approval for the parish president to receive that raise."*

*Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Since this is a resolution, does it have the force of law?"*

*Jeff Perilloux, Legal Counsel, stated, "The original parish presidential increase that was done two (2) years ago was done through a resolution. So it does have the same effect as the original resolution that was adopted by the council."*

*Councilman Lewis stated, "I think the parish charter says that the president can get two (2) raises in his term."*

*Jeff Perilloux stated, "Actually, the charter says that the parish president's salary may be increased no more frequently than once every two years by a two-thirds vote of the council."*

*Councilman Lee stated, "You brought up an excellent point Ms. Hotard. I am going to make a comment and if I am wrong fine, if I am right then I would ask that we look for a table on this. I thought in fact that when we did these two (2) years ago, it was done by ordinance."*

*Jeff Perilloux stated, "No it was done by a resolution Mr. Lee."*

*Councilman Lee stated, "I ask our legal counsel here if that was properly handled or not? I would have thought that something of that magnitude would have required an ordinance. I will be the first to say that if I did it under a resolution or voted for it, I am thinking that we might have made a mistake there. So I am asking you all to elaborate on it. If I am incorrect and we don't need the force of law or an ordinance then that is fine. If so I would ask my fellow council member, Mrs. Millet, that we table to re-evaluate to make sure that if a mistake was made that we in fact do it properly."*

*Jeff Perilloux stated, "Let me just say this. The effect that is in place now will be in affect until 2012. So if you decide to wait a couple of weeks it is not going to affect the current level of the*

parish president's salary. If I read what Mrs. Millet said correctly, you can introduce an ordinance at the next meeting. You can still choose to vote for or against the resolution tonight and then follow it up with an ordinance if in fact we determine that one is necessary."

Councilman Smith asked, "Ms. Hotard is still wondering, is it proper to do it by resolution?"

Jeff Perilloux stated, "Again the original form that we utilized to increase the parish president's salary was through a resolution. There was no question about it at the time as to whether or not that method was proper. Therefore you can, through a resolution, undue a resolution. It certainly wouldn't hurt to have us look into if an ordinance might be necessary to follow up just to cross our t's and dot our I's but certainly a resolution is appropriate to change an existing resolution."

Councilman Smith asked, "You did say that the charter says that the parish president cannot receive a pay raise anymore frequently than every two (2) years correct?"

Jeff Perilloux stated, "No more frequently than once every two (2) years. Correct."

Councilman Smith asked, "So that means, if I am not mistaken, no matter what happens with this ordinance it isn't going to affect the acting parish president right now or the next parish president that comes in because they only have eighteen (18) months. Am I correct?"

Jeff Perilloux stated, "You are correct."

Councilman Smith stated, "So no kind of way, no matter what happens here, it isn't going to affect that pay."

Jeff Perilloux stated, "The parish president's salary is set at its present level and will remain that way until at least January of 2012."

Councilman Smith stated, "Thank you Sir that is what I needed to know."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to accept Resolution R10-20. A Resolution to set the Parish President's salary at its current level such that there shall be no additional automatic increase. Any future increase in the Parish President's salary shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Parish's Home Rule Charter. The motion passed unanimously.

**Pat McTopy – Resolution – R10-21 – A Resolution authorizing the Parish President to sign the required certification of abandoned vessel pertaining to the following: 1. Reserve Relief Canal – Sunken pontoon with collapsed houseboat 2. Galva Canal – collapsed debris on pier/deck – In accordance with La Revised Statute 34:843, and to grant permission to the United States Coast Guard to remove said vessels**

Pat McTopy stated, "Legal Counsel, Jeff Perilloux, has been working with representatives from the Coast Guard on these two (2) projects. They are requesting that the council adopt this resolution to remove the obstructions to navigation."

**MOTION:** Councilman Millet moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to accept Resolution R10-18. A Resolution authorizing the Parish President to sign the required certification of abandoned vessel pertaining to the following: 1. Reserve Relief Canal – Sunken pontoon with collapsed houseboat 2. Galva Canal – collapsed debris on pier/deck – In accordance with La Revised Statute 34:843, and to grant permission to the United States Coast Guard to remove said vessels. The motion passed unanimously.

**Darnel C. Usry – Resolution – R10-22 – A Resolution requesting the Regional Planning Commission to conduct a beneficial land use assessment of the Frenier Boating Community regarding safety and economic development**

Councilwoman Usry stated, *“With the economic growth on Frenier Road/Peavine Road and safety issues, I wish that you would give me your support and we contact the Regional Planning Commission to conduct a feasibility study. We can find out what direction the residents and people in business would like to go in that area.”*

Councilman Lee stated, *“I want to thank my partner for that Mrs. Usry. I think it is an excellent idea. We have had some meetings with the people on Frenier and Mrs. Usry and I have one scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>, with a number of the business people back there and some of the property owners to discuss some vision for the people that own property there already. This myself and Mrs. Usry believe, can be a tremendous cash cow for the parish and it can be something that we can be identified by because not many parishes have many locations left on the lake. This is one of the few places left. I for one, along with Mrs. Usry, plan on doing all that we can to see this develop in a positive fashion because we believe that it is something that can really enhance St. John Parish. So we are actually having meetings. We have one scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>. I want to thank Mrs. Usry and Mr. Henderson.”*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to approve Resolution R10-19. A Resolution requesting the Regional Planning Commission to conduct a beneficial land use assessment of the Frenier Boating Community regarding safety and economic development. The motion passed unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS**

Councilman Millet stated, *“Just go out and vote this weekend.”*

Councilman Julien stated, *“The Rudolph G. Denvil Athletic Foundation is hosting their annual golf tournament. It will benefit the West St. John High School athletics, scholarships and the Rudolph G. Denvil Stadium. Alumni Sponsors are Tyson Jackson of the Kansas City Chiefs and Quinn Johnson of the Green Bay Packers. It will be on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Registration will be at 10:00 AM until 11:30 AM. The T-off is at Noon. They are always raising funds for the foundation and I know coach would be more than happy with the foundation and his daughters because they are doing a good job. Please come out to support them.”*

Councilwoman Millet stated, *“This Saturday, other than the fact that it is Election Day and please go out to vote, there is some interested*

parties that are trying to put together a sand volleyball league at the Hwy. 51 Park. They are meeting at 3:00 PM. If anyone is interested in participating in this league please come by, bring your lawn chairs and have some fun at our sand volley ball court."

Councilman Lee stated, "Not at this time but I reserve the right to make comments at a later date if necessary."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "I just want to remind everyone that there is an election coming up this Saturday. I want to ask that you all get out and vote. I would like to tell this council and the general public I want to remind them about a song 'I feel good all over'. Well I feel good all over in terms of the election."

Councilman Smith stated, "Before we go to presidential remarks, I have a little something that we need to do. Mr. Parish President, could you please come to the podium? Mr. Boe, could you please come to the podium? As we all know our acting CAO and acting Parish President have done an excellent job. They stepped in and kept the parish running smoothly and moving forward in a proper direction. They have helped the council out tremendously. Without your guidance and assistance, I don't think we would have gone through this little period as smoothly as we have. So on behalf of St. John the Baptist Parish Council, I would like to thank you Mr. Pat McTopy and Mr. Buddy Boe for all the work and dedication that you have provided to this parish. Thank you."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Presented to Mr. Patrick McTopy in appreciation for your valuable service, time and dedication as Acting Parish President for St. John the Baptist Parish. We thank you. We couldn't have gotten through all of these things without you. There were some serious issues that we dealt with. Your calmness got us through it. Thank you."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Presented to Mr. Buddy Boe in appreciation for your valuable service, time and dedication as Acting Chief Administrative Officer for St. John the Baptist Parish. I will say this. We had Pat's calmness but we had your energy that got us through it also. So thank you and your services are greatly appreciated."

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

Pat McTopy stated, "It has been an honor and a privilege to serve St. John Parish off and on since 1975 since I graduated from college as a young man, thirty-five years ago. I would like to use this bully pulpit one last time as your acting Parish President to highlight some of the important projects that we as a team have energized in the last twenty-seven months. When I say team I include the representatives from administration and this council because we have been a great team and without your help we could not have accomplished what we have. So if you bear with me I am going to go over some of the things less they be over shadowed by some of the other recent developments. In the finance department we have a historic record number of grants. Every meeting practically we have been to the council with new grants, authorization to sign grants and authorization to apply for grants. The overtime when we came in was in excess of one million dollars per year. It was outrageous how high the overtime was. The latest report that we have, based on the projections, we are going to knock it down this year to

\$694,000.00. Every month it is going down and down. Mr. Labat, bringing in his business experience from industry, has helped turn that trend around saving the tax payers \$300,000.00 plus per year in overtime. Very few people know it but I was seriously concerned about the LaPlace fire rating being down graded. Through significant efforts on certain people in our utility department we were able to repair our fire hydrants, locate valves and we were able to maintain our fire rating of three (3) in LaPlace and our rating in Reserve as well. Our community center on Hwy. 51 is now turning a profit for the first time. We have it leased out to a TV production company. They may request that the lease be extended but for the first time it is turning a profit. Our non-payment disconnect in finance needs to be improved. We need to speed it up but it is working better now than it ever has in the past. For the first time, through the efforts of Buddy Boe and Vince Lucia, we have a five year budget projection that allows us to plan on what we are going to do in the future and what our revenues will do in the future. We have online billing. Whoever comes in needs to expand on it. For the first time our residents have the ability to go online and pay their utility bill. We improved the bond rating not once but twice. The second time we didn't even have to leave the state. We were able to do it with a conference call here in the parish with our bond attorney. The improved bond rating equates to lower interest on principal that our tax payers reap the benefits of. One of the first things we did when we came in as a new administration was to adopt a policy to have the council adopt a policy regulating sick time, vacation time, compensatory time for department directors. This policy cut out some of the large payments that had been made to certain people when they left. We implemented a revised travel policy that was recommended by our auditors in the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 audits. As we discussed earlier tonight, we recognize the policy must be tweaked a little bit. We presented that revision to you all. The utilities department, we have the NANO system up and running. As you recall, we had difficulty with it from the time it was turned on a little over a year ago, to the point that we had to shut it down around July/August of last year. It has been running essentially flawlessly since that time. The administrative order that was put upon the parish for good reason back in August there were certain time lines and dead lines that had to be met October 1<sup>st</sup>, November 1<sup>st</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup>. We met all the dead lines and we are going to be relieved from that obligation soon. The backflow prevention, very important to the security of our parish water system that certain industrial and commercial customers not be allowed to backflow water into our water system. We implemented a policy. We implemented a contract to comply with state law regarding that issue. The Fenton sludge drying unit I know that is not a big issue to the people in the public but the parish spent several hundred thousand dollars on the sludge drying system at our sewer plant approximately eight (8) years ago. That system could never operate. We got it to operate. What does that mean to the average citizen? That means we don't have to pay enormous trucking cost to truck this wet sludge to the land field. We don't have to pay excessive land field costs to land field all of this wet sludge. We got it running. We are going to be expanding the Lions Water Treatment Plant. As you recall, we recently made a bid award on that project. The Edgard Water Plant, we have an engineer designing a new clarifier over there. We are going to be repairing and painting all of our water towers. We have the money in the bank to do it. We bid one project already, priority one, the bids came in substantially under the bid estimate. The sewer plant



expansion, with your cooperation, we sold fifteen million dollars of bonds recently to expand our sewer plant. This is going to be one of the challenges for the next administration to select the engineer and to get it designed and built. Our sewer collection system has a lot of what we call infiltration problems that being rain water and ground water getting into the system over burdening our lift stations causing sewer back ups. With your help, we have money in the bank and we have taken steps to begin the long process of solving that problem. Our sewer lift station Telemetry System, this system will allow us to know when a circuit breaker is tripped out, to know when a switch has malfunctioned without having to send a guy there the next day after sewer has backed up into someone's house. We are not doing a study. We are doing an installation on a free trial basis. We are talking with multiple vendors to select the best product at the best price for St. John Parish. Our non-domestic sewer program, as you know our program is a domestic or residential sewer program. Of course it is recognized that we have many business customers and to an extent small industrial customers that must participate. So the council in years past adopted what is called a non-domestic sewer policy. We have been working earnestly in the last six (6) to seven (7) months to fine tune and get that program running as it should. We have not had and I apologize but we have not had a chance because of all the other work to complete that work but the new administration is going to need to address that. After we complete the construction of our generator housing at our NANO sites we will have permanent generators at all of our water treatment facilities, at both water plants and all of our wells and all of our pump stations. Public works we have important drainage projects. I mentioned earlier I started here in 1975, these problems that I am going over were present back then and we were able to patch as best we could with the dollars that we had over the years but we never could completely solve these problems. With your help and the help of the citizens, we are going to put new pumps and additional pumping in the Captain Bourgeois area, the Persimmon Street area, St. Joan of Arc area, over in Reserve in the St. Peter's area that the school floods every time we get one (1) inch of rain, in Homewood working with Councilman Julien and Councilman Wolfe we are going to expand the pumping capacity there. Old Riverlands we are putting in pump stations to pump that basin out. In Foxwood we have a plan to implement for Foxwood, we have not had time to implement it but I trust that the council will work with the new administration to put that package together and it can be put together. We have an incinerator burning the tree limbs. That is one of the most important programs that the parish has for the citizens of the parish. It was about to be shut down because we didn't have a permit to burn the waste as we had been doing for many years. We have a permit. We have a working incinerator. Canal permits, all of the permits for our important/major drainage canals had been allowed to expire. We have been working diligently to renew a number of them, all of them actually and in fact we have renewed a number of them and for the first time we have seen Vicknair Canal, north of the Interstate and Woodland Canal north of the Interstate and we will be working all of the rest and it will be a challenge to the new administration to complete that work. The Reserve Boat Launch, we opened bids today on it. Three bridges, Woodland Bridge, Greenwood Bridge and Country Club Bridge that we got authorization on tonight. Belle Terre Street lights, we have been working with the councilmen in that area. The traffic signal in Garyville, I don't have it in writing yet but I know all of you have been working hard to get a signal. Mr.

Wolfe and Mr. Millet have been working hard for the people of Garyville to get a traffic light at Airline Highway where there are too many accidents. We have a commitment from the governor that he is going to allow the installation at no cost to the parish to be paid for by others. I don't have it in writing yet but I have the word that it is coming. Woodland Drive, we went to Baton Rouge and got a grant from the state to design a portion of Woodland Drive. We are working on getting the rest of that portion so that the entire road can be designed from 51 to Belle Terre. For the first time we have implemented a recycling program. We reconstructed, with your help, Carrollwood Drive near Airline Highway. In the technology field we now have an electronic document management system. Every time I left, I left the parish three (3) times and have been back four (4) times, every time I left when I returned important documents were missing. I don't mean to imply any wrong doing. I guess they were filed elsewhere or thought after five (5) years that we no longer needed them but we have an electronic document management system now. They are in that computer and they aren't going any where. We have a GPS system installed on all of our vehicles. It is a very important management tool to our directors and our management to track our vehicles to make sure that the citizens are getting the most service that they can from our employees. We have many good employees. We have established a parish website that the citizens can go on and get updates. Public safety we have maintained our fire insurance rating. We have got grant money for additional generators reducing those that we had to pay rental on in times of emergencies. We have contracts signed out of the parish for point to point sheltering in a time of hurricane and storm events. We went from thirteen (13) to thirty-nine (39) full time career fire fighters. We have taken the airport that was an albatross around the tax payer's neck to the tune of a hundred plus thousand dollars a year to maintain the airport. We have taken it and dealing with our partners at the Port Commission they have taken it over and they are operating it saving our tax payers those dollars. In Human Resources, our director has prepared an employee handbook and worked diligently on our travel policy. In Recreation we have the Regala Gym that we are going to be opening bids on next week. The West Bank Complex is under design for Phase II. We opened swimming pools that were closed on the West Bank after Katrina. We opened the Boogie Joseph Community Center for the citizens in Cornland and Reserve to use. We have taken the GPS system and updated it. We spent millions of dollars with an outside consultant on the GPS system that received very little use. What we have done is cut back a lot of that contract work. We have a full time employee who is using that system, who is updating that system and is training our employees on the use of that system. We have all of the canals on the GPS system. We have 90% of our street lights on the GPS system. We updated all of the voter precincts. We input manholes and sewer lift stations. We added all of the 2009 imagery to the system and put about 90% of all the property owned by the parish onto our system. We had issues with our compliance with the American's with Disability Act particularly at our voter precincts and other areas at the court house and other areas. We have taken action to comply with the requirements of the ADA. We are working on our bike path on the levee. We implemented operation Clean Sweep. Just last week we had dozens and dozens of citizens helping us with clean sweep. For the first time we have money for the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) tonight you all selected engineers to do the design work. That is close to seven (7) million dollars in grant money. Buddy has been working diligently on the historic development

plan for the Garyville area and the West Bank. With your help we relocated the Andouille Festival so that we could grow and allow for additional activities and festivities there. We expanded and renovated the Juvenile Facility on the River Road in Reserve. I know to many of you, Code Enforcement is very important. With your help, we have hired additional code enforcement personal and that department people are realizing it. We have a long way to go, don't misunderstand me, but people are realizing that we are doing work in code enforcement and we are getting more and more calls every month because the public is aware that we are enforcing the laws and again we have a long ways to go. The long stalled Hurricane Protection Levee is now moving again because we forged a relationship with our partners at the Pontchartrain Levee District, Mr. Steve Wilson and his board members and with the Corp of Engineers. That is a very important program. Our Planning and Zoning, we have the GIS system that I spoke about earlier. One of our employees now is chairman of the South Central Regional Construction Code Council. She has obtained certification as a Certified Building Official on our pay roll. What's left? We have a lot left. We couldn't do everything in twenty-seven (27) months. Foxwood, Belle Grove, we have to finish up on Belle Grove drainage, Terrio Drive in Reserve, we are working with Mr. Millet on that. The Crevasse area, West Bank Haston has a pump station that he wants to put over there. We have the money to do it we just have to have the will to get it done. The non-domestic sewer program I mentioned earlier, we have to finalize that. The 6.9 million dollars in grants that the parish is receiving from the LRA, the council has worked very diligently in getting those funds and spending them appropriately. We are nearing that goal every week. Grants, we need to continue our program to get grants. Complete the sewer program that I spoke of earlier. We have to finalize plans for the East Bank Administration Building. We didn't do a lot of work on that. We had a workshop for the council. The tough decision has to be made regarding the East Bank administrative building the location and the amount of money that we are going to spend on it. GASB, governmental accounting standards where we have to fund our long term obligations for retiree healthcare and other retirement benefits. It has recently been brought to my attention that the parish may be able to acquire twenty (20) acres between Cambridge Park and our Highway 51 Park. If that is something that the council would want to pursue then we would have a land bridge connecting Cambridge Drive to Highway 51. We are working with the YMCA. I regret we haven't progressed a little further than we have. We are working with them to establish programs in St. John Parish. The YMCA is a very reputable, well known organization. We have money in the bank for a new water tower. So we need to build another water tower. We have contract expirations that this council is going to have to be working on the ambulance that we discussed tonight, the janitorial contract and the grass cutting contracts. We have to complete work on our major drainage canals. It is not impossible. We have started already. With your approval, we rented a marsh buggy and we cleaned out Woodland Canal north of the Interstate, Vicknair Canal north of the Interstate. You should see how they look now compared to the way they looked before. This is very important. The fire stations in LaPlace, I didn't want to pay an engineer to design a fire station on Hemlock Street that the new administration might not want to proceed. So we held up the engineer on that specific project and it is going to be a challenge to the new administration to determine if we want to build that new station on Hemlock Street. My concern is that if we do build it, it is going to tie up the financing for that LaPlace

Fire Department for the next twenty (20) years and without any significant tax increase they won't be able to replace the fire truck because all of the money that they take in is going to be used to pay ongoing operational expenses and the new fire station. So that is something very important that the new administration will deal with. We need to complete the design of the Woodland Drive extension. We need to continue the Historic Development Program and adopt financial disclosure policies. In conclusion most of these projects were needed or mandated twenty-seven (27) months ago when we came in. Our team, including this council, took charge and systematically addressed each. By far most of these projects are fully funded with money in the bank to complete them. I ask that you all do diligence to make sure that they do get completed. Have you noticed lately that our bids are coming in under budget? Our water towers, priority one water towers came in at an excess of one hundred thousand dollars lower. Our Dupont Booster pump station, we opened bids two to three months ago, significantly lower than construction estimates. Our Lions water plant that we opened three weeks or so ago came in significantly below budget. Our Reserve Boat Launch today came in below budget. Our asphalt projects that we opened bids today for Garyville and Reserve were somewhat higher than the cost estimate but look that estimate was done four years ago in 2006. So with inflation those projects as well came in under budget. This in my opinion is a reflection of the confidence that the bidders now have in St. John Parish Government. All of this work; all of this work was done with no new taxes. No service charge increases. In fact we rolled back some mileages. Whether or not our team is here, as leaders of our community, I ask you as councilmen to see that these projects are completed as efficiently and cost effectively as possible. I ask the citizens of the parish to become more involved and support your efforts. I want to thank you for your support. A special thanks to Mr. Arnold Labat who came out of retirement to assist us in our time of need in turning the Utilities Department around. Finally, I want to say that we are all human. We all make mistakes but in the past we have used our best judgment, our best experience, our best training and our best education to do the best job that we can for the people of St. John Parish. You know you make thousands and thousands of decisions, they are not all going to be right but we use our best management to do that. Finally, I want to say, I want to say that we are not corrupt. I am not corrupt. I'm tired of reading about removing the cloud of corruption in St. John Parish. Thank you."

Councilman Smith stated, "Mr. President you went over your five minute limit that we allow but since we did all of those things so gracefully, I will let you go. Again, on behalf of the council, I thank you. I thank administration, your staff and every employee that this parish has. Sometimes we forget to thank our employees but remember without them that's the ones who are doing the back breaking work. So without them none of this work would be possible. So thank you."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "I would like to say from the bottom of my heart thank you Pat and thank you Buddy Boe. I think it is important that we understand what Pat is saying, the public and this council. We have moved forward in a positive manner. Folks out there are saying corruption, corruption. I guess they would say that but we have done a good, good job. Buddy and Pat, after May 1st, I intend to ask Pat and Buddy to be a part of my administration. So to you Pat and Buddy thanks a lot. To the public I hope you understood all the things that were

*said tonight and what we have done to make St. John a better place to live. I know this council intends to continue the good work that you all have done. As far as I am concerned you all will be around for a long, long time. Thank you."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Steve Lee – Ethics Representation  
Docket # 2010-187

Dale Wolfe – Personnel Matters

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

Housing Authority Board appointments

Any and all pending legal matters

**MOTION:** Councilman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed unanimously. There was no action taken as a result of the executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:58 PM, Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Ronnie Smith  
COUNCIL CHAIR

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary