

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2008  
CHAIR JACLYN HOTARD  
VICE CHAIR RONNIE SMITH

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 22, 2008, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: Jaclyn Hotard

Councilman Julien led the prayer. Councilman Millet led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Hubbard, Parish President was present. Pat McTopy, Chief Administrative Assistant was present.

Legal Counsel Barry Landry was present.

Councilwoman Millet introduced Mrs. Sheila Butler, the new Customer Service Manager for the St. John the Baptist and St. James Parish areas.

Sheila Butler, Entergy Customer Service Manager, stated, "*I have been with the company since 1976. My career started in customer service. I was supervisor of the customer service center. I worked in customer relations and before this job I was manager of the meter reading operations for all of Louisiana. So I have been around for quite some time. I am very happy to be here tonight. If I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call.*"

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, introduced the St. Joan of Arc 2008 boy's basketball champions. On behalf of St. John Parish, the St. Joan of Arc boy's 2008 team had an outstanding year. They won their championship for the catholic schools athletic league. It was a great season. He proceeded to issue certificates of achievement to each one of the players.

Larry Bourgeois, Principal, St. Joan of Arc, stated, "*I would like to thank President Hubbard for this opportunity. I would also like to thank the council for this opportunity. It is quite an honor for us to be called before you and receive these certificates. We appreciate it very much. These young men were just an outstanding group. They are 64*

*catholic schools that participated in the archdiocese of New Orleans Catholic School Athletic league for boy's varsity basketball. To win the championship out of 64 is quite an accomplishment, but these ten young men have just exemplified character all the way around, not just on the basketball court but in school in general. They are truly outstanding examples of fine Christian athletes and I commend them, thank them and congratulate them. Thank you."*

### **Consent Agenda**

**Items:** Approval of Minutes April 08, 2008, Regular Meeting

**MOTION:** Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes April 8, 2008, Regular Meeting. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**08-11** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to amend Ordinance 07-49, Section 4:9, Paragraph Two (2) of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances to read as follows: Cost to adopt an animal shall be as follows: \$75.00 - Sterilization Services; \$10.00 - DA. PLP Vaccination; \$ 5.00 - Rabies Vaccination; \$10.00 - Micro-chipping and registration; together with any particular fees required for the care of the animal to be adopted. Total adoption fee to be calculated for each animal adoption as needed. (P. Oncale)

Paul Oncale, Director of Public Safety, stated, "Since we can no longer bring our animals to St. Charles Parish because they no longer have vet, we bring them locally to Dr. Thiac. However in order to adopt an animal it will go up slightly. The original cost to bring them to St. Charles was \$85.00 for these services, with the rising cost of everything. It will now cost \$100.00 to adopt an animal. So there is a slight increase with the fee. The parish is at a break even point. We are not making any money on it. We feel the fees are appropriate at this time and administration recommends approval."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 08-11. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

**08-12** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance request for a re-subdivision of Lot 4, Square 4, LaPlace Terrace Subdivision into lots herein designated as lots 4A and 4B, Square 4, LaPlace, Terrace Subdivision being land formerly batture in front of Section 24, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana. (M. Henderson)

Mike Henderson, Planning & Zoning Director, stated, "This is a request by the applicant to re-subdivide lot 4 into lots 4A and 4B. The property is currently zoned R-1 and the re-subdivision is needed to accommodate the sale of an existing duplex house on the property. Per the criteria, the re-subdivision will allow for continued land use of the property. It is similar to the existing adjacent properties and the subdivision request does not conflict with the existing character. The administration recommends approval."

Councilman Lee stated, "I can tell I am echoing for a number of my fellow council members. We looked at each other when this was brought to our attention just a compliment to the administration, specifically Mr. Henderson and his department, for this new form of reporting. All the data is right here in front of us, including the department recommendations. The ordinance purpose, intent and so on and has really cleared up what can become a tenuous task for us to get through. I would like to congratulate Mr. Henderson and the administration on this. Thank you."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 08-12. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**08-13** An ordinance for final acceptance of Belle Terre Commercial Subdivision, Phase 1A, Lots 1-13 & Parcel DS-4, Parcel A and Lots 1-3, Parcel B and a portion of Woodland Drive designated as WD1A with all improvements, situated in Section 69 & 70, T-11-S, R-7-E, Southeast District of Louisiana, east of the Mississippi River, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana with all improvements. (Belle Terre Land, LLC - PZS-07-024). (M. Henderson)

**08-14** An ordinance to re-zone a piece or portion of ground being a 4.349 acre tract being a portion of New Era Plantation. Situated on land formerly batture in front of Section 19, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana, per a survey by Gerald W. Swanson, R.L.S. dated July 7, 1987. Commence at a point, said point being the northwest intersection of River Rd. & Fir Street. Thence proceed S87 Degrees 33'10"W A distance of 672.27 Feet to a point; Thence proceed S78 Degrees 58'10"W a distance of 318.13 Feet to a point; Thence proceed N23 Degrees 05'25"W a distance of 451.28 Feet to a point; The point of beginning, thence proceed N22 Degrees 45'36"W a distance of 450.21 feet to a point; Thence proceed N88 Degrees 30'10"E a distance of 503.10 feet to a point; Thence proceed S09 Degrees 39'00"E a distance of 423.90 feet to a point; Thence proceed S88 Degrees 30'20"W a distance of 399.94 feet to a point; to the point beginning re-zone from R-1 to Rural. (St. John the Baptist Parish - PZR-08-002) (M. Henderson)

**08-15** An ordinance amending ordinance 08-04 relative to the annual operating budget of St. John the Baptist Parish Economic Development Fund for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2008 and ending December 31, 2008. (P. McTopy)

**08-16** An ordinance amending ordinance 07-71 relative to the annual operating budgets of St. John the Baptist Parish Sales Tax District, Public Works, Wastewater, LaPlace Volunteer Fire Department, Reserve Volunteer Fire Department, Westbank Volunteer Fire Department, Communications District, Airport, and Public Safety for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2008 and ending December 31, 2008. (P. McTopy)

**08-17** An ordinance amending ordinance 08-05 relative to the annual operating budgets of St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2008 and ending December 31, 2008. (P. McTopy)

**08-18** An ordinance amending ordinance 94-74 so as to incorporate new streets into the St. John the Baptist Parish address system. (P. Oncale)

**08-19** An ordinance enacting the following changes to the pay plan as per the recommendation of the Civil Service Board on March 26, 2008: Create Water Plant Operator Trainee Title in Grade 3; Upgrade Water Plant Operator I position from Grade 3 to Grade 4; Upgrade Water Plant Operator II position from Grade 5 to Grade 6; Upgrade Water Plant Operator III position from Grade 6 to Grade 7; Upgrade Water Plant Operator IV position from Grade 8 to Grade 9; Award credit for direct job-related experience as opposed to starting all new hires at entrance step; Create Grade 11 for Professional/Administrator Classification; Create Title of "Professional Administrator" Position in Grade 11 (P. McTopy)

**08-20** An ordinance for a Family Re-subdivision, as per St. John the Baptist Parish ordinance dated February 8, 1982, of Lot 23, Square No. 1, LaPlace Plantation into lots herein designated as Lot 23A & 23B, Square No. 1, LaPlace Plantation LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana. (Rosa Davis - PZS-08-004) (M. Henderson)

**08-21** An ordinance to Re-zone lot 3C of the Godchaux Henderson Property, to show change in the current zone from R-1 to zone C-1 situated in Section 37, T-11-S, R-6-E, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana. (PZS-08-003) (M. Henderson)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Smith stated, "*I would like to ask that the council accept the recommendation of the finance committee.*"

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee took bids under advisement for two (2) bids for Bunker Gear for the paid fire fighters, accepted administration's recommendation and go with the low bidder, Coastal, for asphalt, authorized to renew the contractual agreement with Quality Janitorial & Restoration Services for parish sewer back ups, authorized to execute sub-agreement with Southeastern Louisiana University of Parish Coastal Wetlands Restoration (Christmas Tree Program), approved change order #1 - Garyville Volunteer Fire Department - for an additional \$7,068.00, granted authorization to seek Requests for Proposals for standby emergency response, management and recovery services. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

**Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters**

There were no personnel matters at this time.

**Jaclyn Hotard - Update NANO filtration**

Councilwoman Hotard was absent. This item will be carried over to the next agenda.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Paul Oncale/C. J. Savoie - LNO - A Letter of No Objection for BTA Oil Producers for a proposed drill site/test well for oil and gas in Garyville, Louisiana.**

Paul Oncale, Director of Public Safety, stated, "*BTA Oil would like to drill a proposed test well in the Garyville area. Actually the area is in a remote location, it is west of Marathon. The current site is being used as sugar cane production. It poses no threat or adverse conditions to the community. Mr. Savoie has also reviewed it and therefore we see no issues with it and administration recommends approval.*"

**MOTION:** Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to grant a Letter of No Objection to BTA Oil Producers for a proposed drill site/test well for oil and gas in Garyville, Louisiana. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

**Cheryl Millet - R08-14 - A resolution authorizing the Parish President to enter into an agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) obligating the Parish to pay 10% of the construction cost, and assume all legal liability for, and all maintenance and operating cost, of the subject light system.**

Councilwoman Millet stated, "*These are lights that I requested administration to proceed with along the Belle Terre exit on I-10. The oncoming and exit ramps are extremely dark and the traffic is getting heavier there. I have asked administration to proceed with this.*"

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to accept Resolution R08-14 - A resolution authorizing the Parish President to enter into an agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) obligating the Parish to pay 10% of the construction cost, and assume all legal liability for, and all maintenance and operating cost, of the subject light system. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

**CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS**

Councilman Wolfe stated, "*I would like to thank everyone when I was ill for the flowers, cards, telephone calls, visits and some people came by and I was in bad shape so I couldn't see them at that time. I would like to apologize. I would like to thank my kids, my family and all my friends that stuck by me. I would like to ask the parish president something under president's remarks or right now, it doesn't matter. I just need an update on the request I made for the third person in the council office. What's up with that issue?*"

Bill Hubbard stated, "*Mr. Wolfe, it is being posted tomorrow. You may want to check with some of your fellow council members on that. There has been some dialogue on that issue. So if you don't mind maybe tomorrow just poll a few of your council members. I think that would be a good idea, but we are posting it tomorrow.*"

Councilman Wolfe asked, "*Poll some of my council members?*"

Bill Hubbard stated, "I would suggest that you call and talk to some of your council members on that issue."

Councilman Wolfe asked, "Well after the meeting, could you shoo-shoo in my ear who I need to call? I don't know who to call. I am not saying that to be funny. I am serious. This is a serious matter as far as I am concerned."

Bill Hubbard stated, "I agree with you. I think it is a serious matter too. I would have preferred to shoo-shoo in your ear before the meeting."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "There is a lot of shoo-shooing going on that is all I can say. So it will be posted tomorrow? So any council member that needs to talk to me about that, please call me. I don't see what we need to talk about, but if we need to talk, let's talk. You know some days we have our employees that are in the office that are sick. One person is sick and the person on duty goes to lunch. So if you need to talk to me good, I am available. I am having problems understanding what is going on. I know I have been ill, but I still can focus. I see some of the business that we took here in the last month or so that I am concerned about. I would like to maintain a dialogue with the council and with the administration if at all possible. I think we all were elected to serve the people that put us in office. I am not up here to play games. I am not up here to catch back. I am here to take care of business of the parish. I will not be abused. You all know I am not going to be abused. If there is a fight going on then we need to get it on. I am not here to be abused. I am not here to be threatened. I am here to work along with this council. I am here to work along with administration. If we want to work, we will work. I am here to work. Now if you don't want to work with me good, if you want to fight with me good. I am weak now, but wait till I get some strength and I am willing to fight. On a serious note, I think this council should be about the business of taking care of the people that put us into office. Taking care of our friends, it goes both ways. I am not here to be abused. I don't believe in a torture concept. I got out of my bed especially to say that. I am really teed off man. We don't have to do it that way. We don't have to go about it that way."

Councilman Lewis stated, "I am glad Mr. Wolfe is back. I am glad to see that he is on his feet and moving again. I wish him a lot of luck with his health."

Councilman Julien stated, "I wanted to inform the residents of District III, that we are having a community outreach at the Reserve Branch Library on the 24<sup>th</sup>. I would also like to acknowledge the work that the people in community action are doing. I am getting a lot of good feed back from them and the people in our district. I also want to inform my constituents that they are working on the light situation. I talked to administration - the lights that we are trying to get on 3125. I am just trying to do what I can do to help the people of St. John. Also I would like to wish my wife a Happy Birthday."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Alright little Ronnie."

Councilman Smith stated, "Coach I don't have anything to say, but I want to wish your wife Happy Birthday too."

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

There were no presidential remarks.

There was no executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Employee Back Pay

Jaclyn Hotard - Discussion relative to house on Quail Street

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

Jaclyn Hotard - Personnel Policy for Administrative Officers and  
Department Directors

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

Any and all pending legal matters.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:03 PM, Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Lee seconded the  
motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

/s/Ronnie Smith  
COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary