

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MAY 10th, 2011
CHAIR RONNIE SMITH
VICE CHAIR CHERYL MILLET

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Rudolph Soraparu Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, May 10th, 2011, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: Jaclyn Hotard & Danny Millet

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

Legal Counsels Tom Daley, William O'Regan and Kerry Brown were present.

Natalie Robottom – Presentation – (Carry Over 4/26/11) St. Charles Catholic High School – 2011 Boys State Championship Swim Team

Natalie Robottom, Parish President, introduced the St. Charles Catholic High School 2011 Boys State Championship Swim Team and their coaches. She congratulated them on their second consecutive win after being the state champs last year also. Their coach, Joey Brady was present and commented on the dedication and outstanding sportsmanship of the team and of the parent's dedication to their children. Mrs. Robottom presented them with plaque to be hung in the school trophy case.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes April 26th, 2011, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval – 25th Annual Special Olympics Torch Run – Friday, May 13th, from 8:30 – 10:30 AM

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes April 26th, 2011, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval – 25th Annual Special Olympics Torch Run – Friday, May 13th, from 8:30 – 10:30 AM. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Danny Millet absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

11-17 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance that Section 2:3 of Sub-Chapter A, "In General" of Chapter 2 of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to provide for redistricting per the 2011 Redistricting District Plan 1C with amendments and the 2011

Redistricting Division Plan 1. (R. Smith)

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-17. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Danny Millet absent.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

11-18 An ordinance to provide for sale of adjudicated properties.
(N. Robottom)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Lee stated, *"The finance committee met at 6:00 PM. We had ten items to address. I would ask at this time for one of my fellow council members to make a motion to ratify the actions of the finance committee."*

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to (1) grant administration authorization to advertise for the construction of the walkway for the Edgard Water Plant, approved to (2) grant administration authorization to execute an agreement with Affordable Residential Modifications, LLC to perform minor home repairs for the St. John the Baptist Parish Housing Mitigation Program, approved (3) to grant administration authorization to execute an agreement with Chatmon Construction to perform minor home repairs for the St. John the Baptist Parish Housing Mitigation Program, approved (4) to grant administration authorization to execute an agreement with Family Homes by Tommy and Sheila to perform minor home repairs for the St. John the Baptist Parish Housing Mitigation Program, approved (5) to grant administration authorization to execute an agreement with E & L Construction and Real Estate to perform minor home repairs for the St. John the Baptist Parish Housing Mitigation Program, approved (6) to grant administration authorization to cancel the agreement with Gulf Coast Teaching Families Services, approved to (7) grant administration authorization to execute an agreement with Benevolent Rural Alliance for Cultural & Environmental Strategies (BRACES), a non-profit organization, to administer the St. John the Baptist Housing Mitigation Program, approved (8) to grant authorization for change order #2, Water Tank Rehabilitation – Priority 1 for a no cost time extension, and approved (9) to grant authorization for approval of change order #3, Water Tank Rehabilitation – Priority 2 for a no cost time extension. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Danny Millet absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Charles Julien – Small Business, local business/diversity program

Councilman Julien stated, *"I had received some information from Davalier, LLC about the diversity program. He says that he would be available for information. He provided me with a proposal. I forwarded it to administration and will get that to the council members. He said that he would be available Thursday for questions or anything pertaining to the program or anything that we may want included so that they would be able to look over it again. We have to go out for RFP's*

to make sure that legally everything is met. I just wanted to inform my fellow council members as we continue forward in this endeavor or to go forward."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I did receive the proposal and I have reviewed it. Obviously I hadn't had an opportunity to discuss it with the council or Mr. Julien. Clearly there is some experience associated with the firm with regards to that and we will probably have some questions and hopefully we will have an opportunity to discuss what actually occurs in the New Orleans area with that project. Also I have not had an opportunity to let our legal counsel review it. Obviously there are rules in New Orleans that may not be in existence here but we want to make sure as the proposal suggested, that we are in line with what St. John needs and wants."

Councilman Smith asked, "If we are looking forward to going out for RFQ's would it be possible for the attorney to send someone to our next council meeting and put them on the agenda because just like we may have questions, the public may have questions about the program also. Whenever you are ready it doesn't have to be at the next meeting just in accordance with the time table."

Charles Julien – Update on local business participation on Bond Issue items

Councilman Julien stated, "I had spoken to administration about updating us on the bond projects as far as the amount of money that has been spent on each project. What I am asking for is to find out how much money if we could track, how much money they spent with the local businesses. When I say local business I mean subcontractors."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We will be happy to do that and I want to apologize that the spread sheet didn't make it for the administrative report. I think there was a misunderstanding with regards to what you were requesting but we should be able to take the information that we have and put it in a format looking at the bond dollars and provide you information specific to the bond issue but I think we also have some additional information with regards to work throughout the parish. So if you give us a little more time we should be able to pull something together that would be clearer or we should have a clearer picture as to what is happening with local participation."

Councilman Julien asked, "Could you also have, included in that, the time frame? The time frame of each project and where we are with that. If we are on schedule or off schedule. The other thing that we need to take into consideration as we are doing all this stuff is the change orders. I know a lot of times they will come in our people won't get employed and they will turn around and ask for a \$100,000.00 change order or \$200,000.00 and I just won't be able to support that kind of stuff and I don't think the tax payers want us to spend their monies like that. I want to thank the administration for helping and working with me on this."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We are also working on we haven't quite gotten there yet but a listing of all the projects, all the bond, it is almost like a report card similar to what the school system puts out which lists all the projects, not just the bond projects, even though

those were the majority of the projects but we have some from 2009, 2010 and a little left over from 2002 but we have also received some federal funds that were completing several projects and we are in the process of putting all of that together so you will be able to see where we are on all the projects. We should have that for the next meeting."

Councilman Julien stated, "I certainly appreciate that thank you."

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilman Smith asked, "Mrs. Robottom or your administration, I know about two or three months ago we were talking about going out for the garbage contract. I am just wondering where we are at and what stage we are at because I know that contract ends soon."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I have the copy and was reviewing it today for final edits. You should be ready to receive it. We had a couple of conflicting requests within it. What we have done is looked at what we did initially and looked at what St. Charles implemented this past year and we are about ready to get it to you. I have some final edits. Angelic worked very hard on that and it is not final until you say it is final. So we want to get it to you in a format that is clear and understandable so we can get your input."

Councilman Smith stated, "Again I am not trying to rush you or nothing it is just that I know the last time when we went out this process takes a minute. You can't do it over night and I don't want us to get to the point that we don't have a contract in place and we are working month to month that is all."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "While you are up there Mrs. Robottom, I understand I received an email regarding the Belle Terre interchange lights that are going up May 25th, I believe is the day of the letting and I just wanted to make sure that was correct. Have you all checked on that to make sure it is accurate?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I actually received that from Connie Standard, the Director of DOTD in Hammond. The email came directly from her that it is being handled through DOTD, through our partnership, the contract will be read or awarded on May 25th, they will coordinate a ground breaking ceremony with us in our office that was all part of the email. It will be assigned to their project engineer and our project manager will be working closely with him."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "The ground breaking is not necessary. The lights are."

Natalie Robottom stated, "It is necessary for them. It was their request. It is the majority of their funding."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Yes it is and then my signs."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think, you know Marie is out today, but she did make a call back to Mike and DOTD to ask us specifically to send us an example of what they want. We don't want to go back and forth with them in terms of us thinking they want one thing and may want something

else. So we have asked them to send us a sample of how they want these signs. So it could be done but I don't have an answer to that but I do have an answer to the other sign question if you want that one. Do you remember the lengthy conversation we had last week? There are three kinds of signs. There is a green sign for public streets. A blue sign for private streets then there was a new sign, a white sign with blue trim and blue lettering and a tree that was intended to be for the historic district. At some point the previous administration thought it would be a good idea to replace all the signs with the newer ones as they needed to be replaced. However due to concerns by our emergency personal and an inability to read them with the reflective nature of the signs and the lettering because of all the design of the sign you couldn't read it however there was an ordinance introduced to the council to adopt it as one of the signs that failed. So at this point unless we change that or alter the sign which is not totally out of the ordinary to fit the historic district it would have to be something that was approved and legible and readable for the historic district but we will revert back to the existing ordinance which is for blue and green signs. Now we had a little mess up with our Municode and ordinances with regards to signage that we have to correct as well but that is why there are so many of the third signs throughout the neighborhoods because they decided to expand it past the historic district and then it actually stopped."

Councilman Smith asked, "Mrs. Robottom my question to that is if the complaint or the problem was that those signs couldn't be read by the emergency personal don't you agree that we should take those signs and replace them?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes sir right."

Councilman Smith asked, "So are we going to do that?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes of course it came to our attention, I guess we need to thank Ms. Hotard. I have older eyes and I thought it was my eyes but as we read through the minutes there seemed to be some objection to the signs and other people were having difficulty as well."

NEW BUSINESS:

Natalie Robottom/Elois Joseph – Authorization to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana, Department of Children and Family Services to provide assistance to citizens applying for benefits through public assistance programs

Natalie Robottom stated, "Administration requests authorization for the Health and Human Services Department (HHS) to enter into an agreement with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to serve as a point-of-access for applicants of public assistance benefits. As a Gold Partner, HHS will make a computer available with internet access for applicants to enter their own information in the on-line application in a place that affords sufficient privacy without compromising confidential information. HHS will also provide a space for a worker from DCFS to answer questions and provide information on a work schedule subject to agreement between both parties. The Parish will make office equipment such as telephones, fax machines, copiers,

etc. available to the applicants to carry out DCFS program business. If requested, a parish employee may assist with entering information and provide informational material such as pamphlets, applications and brochures available to the client. The DCFS staff is responsible for processing all applications completed at the site; this includes interviewing the applicant, determining eligibility for benefits, and notifying applicants of the decision. This agreement is for four years, but includes a 30 day out clause. If approved, St. John would be one of twenty six Parishes participating as a collaborative partner. The request was made because on a regular basis many of the individuals that frequent the HHS department may also be in need of additional resources. In providing that access for them at a central location it eliminates some of the transportation issues associated with the population that we are intending to serve. Elois has been active in negotiating this agreement. We have actually altered the level of partnership so that we are not requiring a lot of her staff. We do think the intent is to help our residents to have everything centralized. DSS will provide a staff member based on the schedule that is approved by Elois and her staff and that doesn't interfere with their functioning but on a regular basis it is some of the same people that would need to access those services."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "I have a couple of concerns. The first one is the term limit for four years and I know that we do have the thirty day out clause and the impact that this will have on Ms. Elois' staff. Will this affect their employee operation with this new set of people coming in and more additional things? It's not going to stop them from doing their normal jobs?"

Elois Joseph, Director of HHS, stated, "No it won't."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "That was my only concern, I am worried about your staff."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We are too. You know we will make arrangements as necessary. Obviously there is an out clause. This is just an attempt to centralize services for our residents. I think her staff is anxious to make that additional effort."

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana, Department of Children and Family Services to provide assistance to citizens applying for benefits through public assistance programs. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Danny Millet absent.

Natalie Robottom/Mike Tregre – Authorization to amend the lease agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and Nalco Company, relative to the Garyville Volunteer Fire Department

Natalie Robottom stated, "Administration requests authorization to amend the lease agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and Nalco Company previously entered into on September 21, 2009. The amendment changes the terms of the lease to 20 consecutive years commencing on October 1, 2009, with an option to extend for 10 or more years. Upon termination of the lease after 120 days, it also provides for reimbursement to the Garyville Volunteer Fire Department for all

improvements made to the site at a value to be determined by an independent appraiser. Legal counsel recommended the amendment prior to approving the proposed expansion to the site."

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to amend the lease agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and Nalco Company, relative to the Garyville Volunteer Fire Department. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Danny Millet absent.

CORRESPONDANCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Gauff stated, "I would like to thank the parish workers for the work they are doing and did quickly at the Edgard Water Plant, then all of a sudden the water rose pretty quickly and negated our work but thanks for the help and the job that they are doing. Also I do need some help in our area District I and III, along our main thorough fairs if we could pick up some of the trees and branches or the debris that is along the side of the highway that would help us out. I am not exactly sure if the parish has been contacted but it seems like there is a lot accumulating in our area."

Natalie Robottom stated, "There are a couple of ways to do that. One you can call in and make a request however the trucks are in certain neighborhoods on certain days. So if there is something that has been there for a longer time then necessary please just call the office and they can pick it up. Frequently there is an assumption that we just ride by and pick it all up but most of the time we are actually getting calls. So if we are leaving something out there for too long please let us know."

Councilman Lewis stated, "I would like someone from administration to bring us up to date as to where we are with the river. I know it is pretty high out there."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Our office has been in daily contact with the US Army Corp of Engineers, the Pontchartrain Levee District and of course the Lafourche Levee Basin District to monitor the water levels. As you know the Bonnet Carre spillway was opened starting Monday and they are continuing to open additional days and that will assist with the pressure against the levee and there is strong consideration, I am not sure if they made that decision as of today, but to open the Morganza spillway which will relieve most of the pressure on us down stream. There is no flooding in residential areas in Reserve and no flooding is anticipated. The water level gage located in Reserve indicates flooding within the levee system. So between the two levees when you cross the bridge you can see that the water is very high along the levee. The expected crest is 28 feet on May 23rd. In general our levees are at a height of 29 to 31 feet however if they open the Morganza spillway that crest is expected to be lower than the 28 feet that is projected now. As you are aware the concern with that is unlike the Bonnet Carre spillway there is some farm land and some people that need to be evacuated once that spillway is open so they are trying to take care of that before opening the Morganza spillway. However we do want to remind everyone no digging, they are advising residents not to walk on the levee, no driving, no excavation or trenching within 1,500 feet of the center line of the levee, driving is definitely prohibited

other than their staff who is monitoring the flood stage and the water levels. All of the things that we typically do on our levees they are discouraging us from doing that because of the concern with the river. We are going to continue to monitor it. I think you did get a call this time. We are posting things on the website. We have them on Channel 15. We have been in contact with the newspapers as well as trying to get as much information out as possible but this is the status as of today."

Councilman Lewis stated, "But Mrs. Robottom I am part of the law. I have to see what is going on up there. I represent this side too."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We are just saying that Mr. Lewis. We wouldn't want anything to happen to you or something."

Councilman Julien stated, "I would like to praise the administration and Ms. Elois Joseph for having three out of four of the local companies in the mitigation program. I think that is a great job. I know a lot of times I am crying about stuff but I just think that is what the people want. The people need jobs and they want jobs. We need to keep our jobs here. You know you ride through Texas and it says take care of Texas or whatever the sign reads. It is basically about keeping the money in St. John Parish. I just want to praise you all. Also congratulations to Mrs. Robottom on her son's graduation Thursday. You have done a great job."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just want to congratulate the young marines who graduated Saturday night. It is a great project that the sheriff's office does and I want to congratulate them on that. Also I hope that all mothers had a great day and hopefully their children spoiled them like mine did me."

Councilman Smith stated, "I do have one item I would like to notify the public about. Most of you should remember our past secretary, Mrs. Audrey Millet. Her husband has come down with an illness and is in need of blood. So they are asking that we give the gift of life. There will sponsor a blood drive for Robert "Bobby" Millet, with Ochsner Blood bank Saturday, May 21st, 2011 from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM at St. Hubert's Church Hall, 176 Anthony Monica Street in Garyville, LA. It says remember to eat a healthy meal before you come and to bring a picture ID. So we wish all the luck in the world to Mr. and Mrs. Millet."

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Natalie Robottom stated, "I want to echo Mrs. Millet and wish everyone a belated Happy Mother's day. We are coming upon a year anniversary. I think tomorrow will mark one year in office. We are very excited about making it through there and I want to thank all of you for all of your support and help in getting us to this point. Transitioning change is very difficult. I think we handled it pretty well. We made it to a point now where we can see the end of the road and I think we are making a lot of progress. No offense taken when you force us to look at things that we don't typically spread sheet Mr. Julien but by asking the questions that you do it makes us put in plain view everything that is being done and I am very impressed with the amount of work that has been done by the employees and my staff in the years time. I think when we pull it all together you will be as well. So I want to say thank you

to all of our employees and everybody on the council who have worked with us to get to this point and I look forward to continue through the next year. On a note regarding the ferry and the river, I wanted to mention the ferry is not operational right now. I know they are working on the dock. It is going to be out for sure through the end of this week. We will keep you posted if that should change. I would like to thank the Rue de Jean Civic Association and Rising Star Baptist for inviting me and my administrative staff to speak at their meetings. We hope the information was useful as we have gotten some feedback and encourage those groups as well as others to remain engaged in our efforts. The St. John leadership breakfast was last Friday in support of Boy Scout's of America. Your continued support is needed to help them to be able to go to summer camp, learn life skill training and youth leadership opportunities to build stronger youth leaders for our community. The Belle Terre Civic Association held their crime watch this Saturday. It was very well attended. I appreciate and applaud their efforts in wanting to protect their community. Councilwoman Millet was there as well as Judge Snowdy, Judge Daley, Sheriff Jones and I. Planning and Zoning was there to discuss flood zones. River Parish Hospital was there as well as the civic association trying to one give the crime watch stickers as well as renew memberships. A special congratulation again to the young marines. Mrs. Millet it is a sheriff sponsored event however we have some part in that and we allow their use and support all of their efforts and we actually engage them in many of our activities. They are very helpful. They will participate in our Independence Day celebration. They are looking at help with serving and any type of community service efforts that we request they are always there on hand to help. It is a very impressive group. If you have not attended their graduation it is amazing to see what happens to our youth in such a short period of time but it is only beginning and we are looking forward to continuing that program. I want to congratulate Mrs. Kelly Joseph, Principal Garyville Magnet School; she was selected as superintendent of the St. Helena School System. For those of you who know her, she is the daughter of Whitney Joseph, our assessor, I can remember Kelly starting to teach and she invited me to her school probably during LEAP. She is an amazing principal and will make an amazing superintendent. Just a reminder that our brown bag lunch is tomorrow here on the West Bank. It begins at 11:30 and goes until 1:00 it is at the community center and we are encouraging all of the residents to come out and bring their bag lunch and join us for community discussion. We will have a series of these lunches. We are starting here but we will do those throughout the parish and we encourage people to come out and ask questions and make recommendations for improvements throughout the parish. This is our last week to apply for the minor home repair program. We are very excited about participation so far. As of last week there were 300 applicants and we are anticipating at least 100 more this week. They will be taking applications at New Wine tomorrow; it is the late night from 1:00 until 7:00, back on the West Bank on Thursday from 1:00 until 7:00 and ending on Friday at New Wine from 9:00 until 3:00. I want to thank Ms. Elois, Mrs. Myra, all their staff and all of the support staff from her office for helping. It has been a very intense process. They worked really hard to develop the application process to get the grant and now to work through the application process. As you can see they have had some long days and the ladies that are in there are doing a great job also our public works people who help us with set up and transport during the application process. St. John Parish law enforcement is hosting

Louisiana law enforcement torch run this Friday for Special Olympics. The participants will start at the LaPlace Frostop at 8:30 and the run is 8 miles. So if you are feeling up to it you may want to get out there. I may be there at the beginning but it is unlikely that I will go a mile but I will be there to support those of you who feel very strong. You can also ride your bicycles. You can call Cindy Faucheux at 985-652-7058. Law day is here at the courthouse Friday as well that is why I am not going to run the 8 miles from 10:30 until 1:30. Our program will focus on the contributions to law by John Adams and the public is invited to attend. Residents are invited to attend the financial seminar being given by TV Host Calvin Boston at the YMCA facility next to New Wine on Saturday, May 21st, 2011 at 9:00 AM. The money wise empowerment tour will provide financial seminars in underserved communities throughout the country and the tour is an official outreach program featuring foreclosure prevention, credit repair, money management, home ownership, small business development, free legal counsel, succession, property taxes and assessment and more financial information. On behalf of myself and the parish I would like to send out condolences to Frances Brignac, Jr's. family. Mr. Brignac was a retired volunteer fire fighter in Garyville who served for over 21 years. We would like to send out appreciation to Mr. Brignac's dedication to St. John Parish. The St. John Firefighters are sponsoring a blood drive on Thursday, May 19th, 2011 from 9:00 until 2:00 at the Percy Hebert building. Please again keep visiting our website and please review the Hurricane Preparedness page because it is that time again and we need you to start preparing for the season."

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 7:10 PM, Councilman Lee moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Danny Millet absent.

/s/Ronnie Smith
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary

