

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, May 11th, 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 Rudolph Soraparu Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, May 11th, 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, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilwoman District IV, Danny Millet, Councilman District II, Dale Wolfe, Councilman-at-Large, Div. A

ABSENT: Steve Lee, Councilman-at-Large, Div B.

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

Legal Counsel Jeff Perilloux was present.

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to go into recess to move to the Courtroom for the Parish President's Oath of Office. The motion passed with Councilman Lee absent.

PARISH PRESIDENT/OATH OF OFFICE – Natalie Robottom

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to go back into the regular council meeting. The motion passed with Councilman Lee absent.

SUCCESSION OF OFFICE

Natalie Robottom, Parish President, stated, *"Talk about hit the ground running. The line of succession to the Parish President will be the Chief Administrative Assistant, followed in order by the Chief Financial Officer, Director of Emergency Preparedness, Councilmen-at-Large in order of seniority, followed by individual district Councilmen by seniority in local government services."*

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes April 27th, 2010, Regular Meeting; Dale Wolfe – Board Appointments

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes – April 27th, 2010, Regular Meeting; Dale Wolfe – Board Appointments. Sandra Dragon appointment to the Recreation Board replacing Ed Morris and Dale Thomas appointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustments replacing Brenda Anderson. The motion passed with

Councilman Lee absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON 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)

Councilwoman Millet stated, *“I would like to have this ordinance removed at this time. The wording is not exactly the way I wanted it to be done.”*

10-11 (Public Hearing Held) 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)

Carl Baloney, 2858 Hwy 44, Garyville, asked, *“Is this limiting or changing the ordinance from the previous parish president?”*

Councilman Smith stated, *“What it is doing sir is not limiting or changing anything. It is actually structuring the ordinance better. That was the same amount of money that was allotted for the parish president. We had a recent, I tell you what let me let Mr. McTopy get up and explain this for you.”*

Pat McTopy stated, *“The past practice with the former parish presidents was to receive \$800.00 a month as a car allowance. The policy was not adopted by ordinance. It wasn’t clear as to what the \$800.00 covered. Did it cover fuel, insurance or maintenance? As part of the legislative auditors compliance audit, they reviewed the travel allowance and made a recommendation that we adopt a formal ordinance identifying and specifying the amount and what was to be covered.”*

Carl Baloney asked, *“Does this apply across the board?”*

Councilman Smith stated, *“This ordinance applies only to the parish president.”*

Carl Baloney asked, *“Is the ordinance for the council members?”*

Councilman Smith stated, *“We do not have car allowances sir.”*

Carl Baloney asked, *“You do not?”*

Councilman Smith stated, *“No sir and we don’t get department vehicles.”*

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 10-11. The motion passed with Councilman Lee absent.

10-12 (Public Hearing Held) 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)

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Wolfe seconded the motion for discussion on Ordinance 10-12. The motion passed with Councilman Lee absent.

Geri Broussard-Baloney, 2858 Hwy 44, Garyville, stated, "I just happened to be in the parish building Friday so I picked up a copy of the agenda for today. I have concerns about this proposal. This evening I address you as a woman, as a wife, as a mother and as a grandmother and I address you as a professional business owner as well as a tax payer. I address you as a proud citizen today, probably the proudest that I have ever been since I have been in St. John Parish because today we inducted for the first time the first woman as parish president. It is a proud moment for us. I have deep concerns with this issue that is before this body with the issue of it appears to me and my understanding from reading it. I haven't had any discussions with any councilmen and if I am misunderstanding then I will stand corrected. I have deep concerns about reducing the number of presidential appointees on the heel of such a momentous occasion. For to do so I believe it sends a very archaic and backwards message to the people of this parish. I feel that it is an insult to every woman in this parish. It should be an insult to every husband, every father, every grandfather, every uncle and every brother. In essence what it appears to do is, it suggests that we are not going to give the first woman parish president the same support that we gave the last man parish president. So I am asking you, I didn't get approval from Madame President Robottom to speak. I am speaking from my heart as a parish resident and tax payer and concerned citizen. I am asking this council to please give Mrs. Robottom all of the tools that she needs to move this parish forward. As was stated when the number of appointees was raised to seven (7) less than two (2) years ago the parish has grown to such a magnitude as to necessitate and increase in the number of administration staff. That number didn't change last week. That number didn't change today. The only thing that changed last week is that the people of this parish elected the first woman parish president. A clear message was sent that we want to move forward openly and aggressively and progressively. On that note, I implore you all; if you all decide to go forward with this I am imploring you all not to hastily move to reduce the president's appointments. As an attorney I represent thousands of individuals that come to me, husband and wives, about getting a divorce. I always discourage critical decision making in the heat of battle. There must be a cooling off period. Coming out of this election, I respectfully suggest to you that there must be a cooling off period. There were several formidable contenders for this seat. Two of them made it to the run off. Only one could win. It is the American way. There must be a cooling off period. It is the rational thing to do. So I am asking each and every one of you to please reconsider moving on this at this time."

Whitney Joseph, 146 E. 27th St., Reserve, stated, "I just happen to be an elected official. I just happen to be the assessor. I am going to ask that you also table this because you are putting a restriction on Mrs. Robottom. If the people would have told me that I couldn't assess certain pieces of property in St. John the Baptist Parish, I don't

think I could have done my job. So I am asking this council please rescind this ordinance. Please don't consider this ordinance. Please give Mrs. Robottom all the tools that she will need, the same thing you did with Mr. Hubbard, give her all the tools that she will need to perform her job. It is a historical event. She is going to need all the help she can possibly get and she especially is going to need it from this council. I am begging you as a citizen of this parish and as an elected official of this parish please reconsider your motion. I am asking Mr. Dale Wolfe to please do that. I consider Mr. Dale Wolfe a friend and I don't think he is doing this for any vindictive reasons. I think he has reasons for doing what he is doing. I am asking you as a friend Mr. Wolfe to take that motion and put it away sir."

Larry Snyder, 1936 Cambridge Dr., LaPlace, stated, "I would just like an explanation on what prompted this particular ordinance to be put on the board. Whoever wrote the ordinance, I would just like to know what prompted you to put an ordinance like this before this council? I am a parish resident here and I think I deserve to know that."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "First of all, let me just say we don't need a cooling off period. There isn't anything hot and there isn't anything burning. So we don't need a cooling off period. I introduced the ordinance. First of all, we need accountability. We have a system designed such as if you need additional employees, you write up a job description, you post it on the board and you advertise it. I understand Bill Hubbard had seven (7) assistants to the parish president. I understand Mrs. Robottom wanted the same opportunity. Mrs. Robottom and I talked last week. We discussed this matter. I told her at that time if that would hinder her operations then that was history. I would remove the ordinance. So I am not a bad guy and if you are getting up here to try to make me a bad guy I don't care. I know who I am and what I am all about. I am all about working with Mrs. Robottom. I told her that. Now some things have been said that I am going to work against her or that I am going to monitor her. I monitor everybody. I used to monitor my mama and daddy when they were alive. So there is nothing wrong with monitoring. There is such a thing as accountability. Accountability! I'm not going to hinder Mrs. Robottom. I am going to give her 110% of my cooperation. I said that during the election, before the election and I am going to say it after the election. I have no problem with Mrs. Robottom. I love her. I always treated her like a lady. It was a contest. She won. It is a finished thing. I am here to work along with Mrs. Robottom and this council and the people of St. John the Baptist Parish. I got to be sick, sad and out of my mind, Mrs. Robottom won, to find reason not to support her. I have some reasons not to support some of her supporters but I have no reason not to support Mrs. Robottom. If anything I hope I answered your question."

Larry Snyder stated, "Mr. Wolfe, thank you."

Councilman Julien stated, "First I would like to ask Mr. Robottom, if I am not out of order, to come and sit, you shouldn't have to stand so please come up and sit next to your wife. I would like to congratulate Mrs. Robottom on a hard fought battle. I think that as this is a momentous occasion, we all have to self assess. We all have to ask ourselves are we doing the best thing for our community. The supporters on both sides as this were a hard fought battle. I have to agree with Mrs. Baloney that we do need a cooling down period because the last

thing we need is to have issues that would cloud or hinder Mrs. Robottom's work. I have never talked to Mrs. Robottom about the ordinance. I never asked her how many people that she might need. At this time, I would ask you how many do you feel that you would need to run the parish efficiently?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Mr. Julien, as Mr. Wolfe stated earlier we discussed the ordinance and the timeliness of it, especially with the election just being held. I told him that because I had not had an opportunity to assess the individuals there, the jobs they were doing and their contribution to the overall functions of the office I was not prepared to make a decision. However I did request that I be given that opportunity by not limiting the number. I did not commit to seven (7) because two (2) of them are directors and I feel as according to the charter those should be replaced with directors. So that leaves five (5). What he agreed to was to reconsider that and as he said he did not want to hinder my ability to do my job. I am asking for the same considerations that were given to my predecessors in looking at and adopting this ordinance. I have not committed to I have scheduled to meet with the current administrators and determine what they are doing, what they are offering and what their contributions are to the system and I will make my decision from there."

Councilman Julien stated, "I just want to congratulate you. I want you to understand and I want the public to understand that my job as a council member is to support and represent the people of district III as well as the people of St. John the Baptist Parish. I will do my best and I will do my best to work with you as well Mrs. Robottom."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "I would just like to explain to the people so that they can understand exactly what happened. I introduced this ordinance even before Mrs. Robottom was elected or had I been elected I would have kept the ordinance in place and ask that we narrow it down to two (2). So I didn't do that in anticipation of anyone winning or to penalize anyone. I could have said when it came up that I want to remove the ordinance but I wanted to give the audience an opportunity to express themselves. I was going to remove it anyways. I had committed to that. So that is the way it is and that is the way it will be."

Councilman Smith stated, "At this time that item is being removed from the agenda."

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

10-13 An ordinance amending the title of Section 113:558 of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances by adding the following language, as shown: *Sec. 113-558. Design standards for off-premise signs.* (M. Henderson)

10-14 An ordinance authorizing the issuance of One Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,400,000) of Public Improvement Bonds, Series ST-2010B, of the St. John the Baptist Parish Sales Tax District; prescribing the form, terms and conditions of said Bonds; providing for the payment thereof; awarding said Bonds to the purchaser thereof; authorizing the execution of a Loan and Pledge Agreement and other loan documents with the

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (the "Department"); providing for the delivery of the Bonds to the Department; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. (Parish President)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Julien stated, "At 6:00 PM this evening the finance committee met. We conducted the financial business of St. John the Baptist Parish. We opened bids and awarded bids. At this point I would ask for a motion to accept."

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved take the bids for Granular Chlorine & 3" Bio-Sanitizer Disinfecting tablets under advisement, approved to take the bids for the Greenwood Bridge Replacement Project under advisement, approved to take the bids for the Water Storage Tank repair & Rehab Priority Group 2 under advisement, approved to take the bids for Generator Installation Ruddock Well #2, Station #2, Station #3 under advisement, approved to take the offers for the sale of Parish Property on Cardinal Street, LaPlace under advisement, approved to award the bid for the Regala Gymnasium to Block Construction, approved to award the bid for the Reserve Boat Launch improvements to L&L General Construction in the amount of \$540,000.00, approved to award the bid for residential electrical repairs (ARRA) weatherization assistance program to First Contact Electrical at a price of \$47.00 an hour, approved to award the bid for Historic East St., Garyville to RJ Daigle & Sons Contractors, approved to award the bid for N.W. 2nd St., Reserve to RJ Daigle & Sons Contractors in the amount of \$545,117.30, and approved to grant change order #1 for the St. John the Baptist Parish Airport, Airfield Lighting and NAVAIDS Improvements in the amount of \$39,191.40. The motion passed with 7 yeas, 1 abstaining (Hotard) and 1 absent (Lee).

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

There were no personnel matters at this time.

Dale Wolfe - (Carry Over) Contracts

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Earlier this year we were supposed to go out for our grass cutting contracts and our janitorial contracts. Somehow it got tangled up in the committees. I would like to make a motion at this time for our janitorial contracts and our grass cutting contracts that we go back to our original contractors at the original price."

Councilman Smith stated, "Mr. Wolfe, let me make sure I have this clear. You want to make a motion that we give those contracts back to the same contractors that we had in place, at the original price and what is the term?"

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Three (3) years."

Councilman Smith stated, "Thank you."

MOTION: Councilman Wolfe moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to renew the current janitorial and grass cutting contracts at the same price for three (3) years.

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to take a five minute recess. The motion passed with Councilman Lee absent.

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed with Councilman Lee absent.

Councilman Smith stated, "At this time we have a motion on the floor from Mr. Wolfe to simply renew the grass cutting and janitorial contracts with the same vendors, everything is the same for a three (3) year period. That motion was seconded by Mr. Julien. Are there any comments from the council?"

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I think it is unfair at this point in time to tie Mrs. Robottom, she hasn't gotten in here, to extend her a three (3) year contract. Let her have some time to digest the situation then come before us with the contract renewal. I just think it is unfair at this point in time to do this. It is not something that has to be done tonight. Give her some time to go over that."

Councilman Wolfe asked, "What is the unfair part of it?"

Councilwoman Millet stated, "She hasn't had a chance to review the contracts and neither have I Mr. Wolfe. You just brought this here tonight. It was a surprise."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "These contracts have been here forever."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Well if they have been here forever, I have never seen them Mr. Wolfe."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Maybe you had your eyes closed because they have been here. My motion stands sir."

Councilman Smith stated, "Thank you sir."

***MOTION:** Councilman Wolfe moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to renew the current janitorial and grass cutting contracts with the same vendors for the next three (3) years. The motion passes with 7 yeas, 1 nea (Cheryl Millet) and 1 absent (Lee).

Dale Wolfe – Update on development of Lucy satellite park

Councilman Wolfe stated, "We can carry this item over to the next agenda."

Stacey Cador – Employee handbook

Stacey Cador, Director of Human Resources, stated, "At this time we are

requesting adoption of the employee handbook that you received several weeks ago."

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of administration and adopt the employee handbook.

Councilman Wolfe stated, "There are some things in the handbook that I think need discussing. I would like to ask administration if we could wait two (2) more weeks before adopting this."

Stacey Cador stated, "Certainly. Should I get with Madame Secretary to schedule a time or you will contact me to discuss?"

Councilman Wolfe stated, "I will come in to see you."

Councilman Smith stated, "This item will be carried over."

Elois Joseph – Health and Wellness Fair – May 22nd, 2010

Elois Joseph, Director of Health & Human Services, stated, "Good evening, I would like to invite the council, our honorable parish president and the public to St. John the Baptist Parishes Department of Health & Human services Health & Wellness Fair. We have free health screening, CPR demonstration, healthy living seminars, work out section bring your exercise clothes. It will be Saturday, May 22nd, 2010 from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM at the Percy Hebert Building. The public is invited. We also will have healthy meals not jambalaya and pastalaya, healthy meals. So everybody is invited to attend."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "With the wellness screening what all does that cover? It may be on the flyer, if it is on there don't worry about it. Thank you so much I actually just had someone ask me about this yesterday."

Vince Lucia – Resolution R10-23 – A resolution naming the check signers for the Parish of St. John the Baptist as follows: Parish President – Natalie Robottom, Director of Public Safety – Paul Oncale, Finance Manager – Vince Lucia.

MOTION: Councilman Wolfe moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to accept Resolution R10-23. A resolution naming the check signers for the Parish of St. John the Baptist as follows: Parish President – Natalie Robottom, Director of Public Safety – Paul Oncale, Finance Manager – Vince Lucia. The motion passed with Councilman Lee absent.

Charles Julien – Update on Sewer issue – Walterine Breaux – 140 W. 14th Street, Reserve

Councilman Julien stated, "I hate to thrust you into this right now but the lady is just without water and lights and in 2010 it is an unfortunate situation. What we will do is just carry that over to the next meeting. It will be packed but we will carry this over because I think I need to meet with you and talk to you about it."

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ronnie Smith/Tom Daley – Housing Authority Board Appointments

Tom Daley, District Attorney, stated, "I received correspondence from Mr. Randall Gaines who is the attorney for the Housing Authority advising me and I forwarded that to you that there are three (3) appointments to the current housing board whose terms have expired, that being Donald Brown, Priscilla James and Allen Smith. Pursuant to an act of the legislature in 2009, one (1) of the board members needs to be a tenant who resides in the housing authority and is in good standing. I think previously the board forwarded to you some names of tenant dwellers who qualified to fill that position. So there are three (3) members who are currently serving whose terms are expired. The council is the body that is authorized by state law to make the appointments to the authority and I am asking you to consider filling those three (3) vacancies. One (1) of which has to be by law now a tenant."

Councilman Smith stated, "We received this letter from you about a week and a half ago. At that time I instructed my secretary to send out an email to the council requesting names of any appointments that anyone may want to have. I spoke to Mr. Julien. He was the only one to bring me an appointment and the appointment that he is trying to make is a tenant of housing. That person's name is Mrs. Evelyn Williams. Also we had a discussion previously and the name of Ms. Angelle Songy and Mr. Dale Savoie. At this time if I can get someone else to make a motion on my behalf and get a second on that motion I would like to move forward with getting these people appointed to the board."

Councilman Wolfe asked, "Did you say Priscilla James?"

Tom Daley stated, "Yes. Donald Brown, Priscilla James and Allen Smith those terms have expired. The two (2) current board members whose terms have not expired are Paula Hart and Arthur Smith."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Priscilla James would be my name."

Councilman Smith stated, "To add? Mr. Wolfe I am going to give you my opinion and it is only my opinion. There are three (3) people whose terms have expired. None of those people are tenants of the housing authority. So the reason I made a recommendation to remove all three (3) was because we have to have one (1) person that is a tenant, which means out of those three (3) people, if we re-appointed those people, we would only be able to replace two (2) people. I just thought it was unfair to name any of those people without naming all three (3) of those people. There was someone on the board here that at least wanted everybody back on that board. That is my opinion. I am fine with whoever you would like to recommend but again we are going to have to make a decision as a council."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Priscilla James, you already named the person who lives within the complex. So you are going to have three (3) out of the four (4)."

Councilman Smith stated, "If that is the case Mr. Wolfe, we are going to have to add Mr. Donald Brown and Mr. Allen Smith back to that list also. I am fine with that Mr. Wolfe. I just know that this matter needs to be resolved and we need to find a way to resolve it."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I've asked before and whenever we have had discussions about this at any council meetings I have asked that we just have some sort of procedure set in place on how we make these appointments. We have five (5) appointments. There are nine (9) council members. I know I have had discussions with legal counsel over the years because I do get asked from residents in my district because I represent Section 8 and all those other things that do fall under the housing authority and it has never been clear on how we actually make the appointments. What happens is it comes down to these meetings where we have two vacancies and we want to put more than the vacancies that we have on the board and it is just not really clear. So at some point I am asking our legal representation to tell us what policy or procedure do we need as a council to make these appointments so that there is no uncertainty. Every time we have to make appointments, since I have been here for seven (7) years, it boils down to the same thing. Who really gets to make an appointment? We have 5 appointments. We have 9 council members. So there always has to be a give and take somewhere and we don't know what the give and take is. We need guidance from our legal counsel. Like I have said, I do get request from people in my district who do want to serve on the housing board and I can't even tell them how you get on because there is no policy in place on how they actually get appointed and who actually gets to make the appointment. So at some point we have to have it clear and understandable to everyone on how we are going to make these appointments or we are going to do this every single time. It isn't fair to people who want to serve on the board. It isn't fair to us as a council to not really know what the procedure is."

Tom Daley stated, "The state procedure is the council appoints by majority vote. So any council member can nominate to fill a vacancy. If they get a second, then there is a discussion and the council votes to approve or disapprove that candidate."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Can't we, as a council, adopt a policy within that on how we are going to appoint members to that board?"

Tom Daley stated, "You can appoint some alternate procedure whereby you rotate making the nomination."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I have suggested that in the past. That we have it on a rotating system and if some council members don't have an appointment then it can roll over to the next person but at least it would be clear and not something that we have to try and put four (4) or five (5) people into two (2) vacancies and things like that. It will at least give the public an understanding of if they do want to serve on the board how they can actually serve on the housing authority board because there is a lot of interest and a lot of people who do want to serve on that board."

Tom Daley stated, "According to the housing authority records, Mr. Julien appointed Paula Hart and Mr. Wolfe appointed Art Smith. I don't

have council minutes that is according to the housing authority records."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "That is correct."

Councilman Lewis stated, "When I came here about twenty (20) years ago they had two (2) members from the West Bank and three (3) members from the East Bank. The term was five (5) years for everybody with those years being staggered terms. It was staggered so that they wouldn't be all off of the board at one time. It would be maybe one this year and one the next year. I think that is the way the law is written. I am not sure. I am going to have to go back and look it up."

Tom Daley stated, "There were originally staggered terms pursuant to the state law but what has happened is that two (2) of the terms haven't expired and three (3) of them have. I think it is because in the past there has been some hold over in terms of filling the vacancies. These members serve until replaced or re-appointed. The reason that it is an issue is because a housing authority board member has raised the legality of no tenant being on the board. That board member is correct. One (1) of these expired terms should, by state law, be filled by a tenant."

Councilman Julien stated, "I received a letter from Chairman Smith approximately a month and a half ago maybe, the first time. At that point any individual who had someone to appoint should have just said I want this person on the board or would you consider it. Instead Mr. Smith stated tonight that he hadn't received a response. So Ms. Hotard as we sit and I don't want to attack you but as we sit and you say you what's the procedure. The procedure would have been to bring an individual's name to the board and then we vote on it by majority."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "To answer that my response has always been when we have discussed these housing authority board appointments for the last seven (7) years and I have brought names before the board. At this particular time I didn't have a name but when I have brought names before the board they were not appointed because there was no procedure in place. So I keep saying every time that we make these appointments that we need to have a procedure. Whether or not I had a name at this time or I had a name last year I still think that having a procedure set in place so that everyone can understand how they can get on the board is not really a bad idea. At this time I didn't have someone but there has been in the past similar instances where I did have someone who wanted to be on the board and they were not able to be on there because there was no clear procedure. All I am asking for is a procedure or policy."

Councilman Smith stated, "The first motion that was on the table was the three (3) names that I gave you. I know Mr. Wolfe you are adding another name to that item. So I am going to give you the opportunity to make a substitute motion if that is what you would like to do."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Then I make a substitute motion to re-appoint Priscilla James."

Councilman Smith stated, "Well you are going to have to give me three (3) names because we cannot vote on four (4) people."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Well first of all in the past what we have done is submitted names. Each council member comes up with that person that they want on the housing authority board. This body votes on the person individually not three (3) names at one time."

Councilman Smith stated, "We can vote on them individually Mr. Wolfe. I am fine with that. I just want to get this resolved. I don't have any body that I want."

Tom Daley stated, "Mr. Chairman if I can suggest, Priscilla James was appointed first out of the three (3) that have to be replaced. Her appointment was on May 11th, 2004. So I would suggest that you start with her and then the other two (2) are Mr. Donald Brown who was appointed on September 21st, 2004 and then Mr. Allen Smith who was appointed on December 28th, 2004. So you can take them in that order and decide to re-appoint or replace."

Councilman Smith stated, "Mr. Daley my recommendation is since none of those people are tenants, the first person I want to appoint is a tenant. After we appoint that tenant that lives there, we will go through the names in that order. Again any other comments from the council? Let's see if this works."

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to appoint Evelyn Williams, housing tenant, to the Housing Authority Board. The motion passed with Councilman Lee absent.

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Excuse me, I just need some clarification if you don't mind. We are voting to keep Priscilla James on the board or replace her with someone else?"

Councilman Smith stated, "To re-appoint her to the board."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "What about the other names that you have?"

Councilman Smith stated, "I am going to take our DA's advice and if we decide that hypothetically we don't re-appoint Priscilla James, then we will go down to the next two (2) names that are on the board presently. If we don't re-appoint them, then we will go to the other names that I have."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Thank you. At this point in time, if this is how we are going to make the vote, I would request that you keep Mr. Allen Smith on the board. I know his name is the last one so he would be eliminated if the procedure continues the way it does. So I am just asking if this be the case, he is doing a very good job on the board. I would ask that you consider keeping him on the board."

MOTION: Councilman Wolfe moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to re-appoint Priscilla James to the Housing Authority Board. The motion passed with Councilman Lee absent.

MOTION: Councilman Wolfe moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to re-appoint Donald Brown to the Housing Authority Board. The motion failed with 4 yeas (Wolfe, Smith, Julien, Lewis), 4 neas (Millet, Usry, Hotard, Millet) and 1 absent (Lee).

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to re-appoint Allen Smith to the Housing Authority Board. The motion passed with Councilman Lee absent.

Dale Wolfe – Override Planning and Zoning trailer placement denial for Sandy Gregoire – 238 Redbud Street

Councilman Wolfe stated, "I am putting the council on notice to make a motion to override planning and zoning for this trailer placement."

Councilman Smith stated, "He would also like to put the council and the public on notice of his intent to override Planning and Zoning's denial of a trailer placement for Mr. Roderick Williams on Jack St. in LaPlace."

Haston Lewis – Discussion noise from the Mississippi River in the Tigerville/Edgard area – Noise ordinance on water

Myrtle Bossier, 119 E. 8th St., Tigerville, stated, "I am representing the people in the community of the Tigerville area and the streets around it. Our complaint is twofold. The extremely noisy operation of the vessels in the river for example, constant banging, dropping and clinking noises. It sounds like pieces of metal or something like that. Some of this is so loud that it vibrates the houses. Some residents have complained that it has caused their mirrors to fall off of the walls. Even cracked chimneys and cracked walls, uneven doors and difficulty sleeping. I know that from my husband with the difficulty sleeping. The second part is residue that we find on the cars and the houses and really just everywhere. This residue sometimes is yellow and as recently as last week on the cars they had like a dust with silver metal like specks in it which was hard to take off of the cars. So I assume that if you see this on the cars and the houses then we are also breathing this. So we have a great concern with what is going on, on the river. We are hoping that we can find some answers for this. We have spoken with Mr. David Fenley, Mr. Todd Fuller and at the time they were very nice and they told me well we assure you that this will stop or they will do what they call soft loading and unloading but that would be for a little while and then the problem would come right back. We need a response from somebody. We are asking for some body's consideration in regards to this. It is really a problem and I am sure that if they were in the area that we are in and could hear this they would make the same complaints."

Councilman Lewis stated, "I talked to Mr. Daley. Mr. Daley, could you come up and tell us some of the laws on the books and what we can do to help them?"

Tom Daley stated, "Mr. Lewis because the noise problem was on the agenda, I pulled from our code of ordinances the noise ordinance that the parish has which is pretty extensive and it has specific decimal levels for different zoning districts. What I would request at this time is that administration get code enforcement to meet with the people in the neighborhood and to take some sounding or readings pursuant to the decimal levels that are within the perimeters of the ordinance. The ordinance does restrict certain activities at night. So there are some limitations with regard as to what industry can do."

Certainly, at times that it would disturb the residents but without some additional inquiry to test the levels of noise and see how they fall into the specifications of the ordinance. I recommend that what we do at this point."

Councilman Julien asked, "Mr. Daley I was wondering if you could give some examples of the things that the residents can do. I don't know if they have the tools to gage that kind of noise."

Tom Daley stated, "I know they don't. I assume that since there are sound level limitations in the ordinance that code enforcement should have a device to measure. They need to go out there at the times that it is offensive and measure the noise by decimal levels to be able to determine whether it is outside of the limits. If it is then the business that is generating that noise can be cited."

Councilman Julien asked, "So you are basically saying to call the Sheriff's department and ask them to have a deputy to come out or a code enforcement officer to come?"

Tom Daley stated, "I am recommending code enforcement because the sheriff's office it sounds like if it is a re-occurring problem then code enforcement should inspect it. There are hours of limitations. For instance, in a business or commercial zone there are limitations after 10:00 PM and before 7:00 AM. I know all of us from time to time hear activity on the river in the middle of the night. My recommendation is that administration asks code enforcement to make an inquiry in regards to the levels of noise, especially if it is more problematic at particular periods of time."

Councilman Smith asked, "Mrs. Bossier, you said you spoke to a couple of people. Do you know the name of the company that they were with?"

Mrs. Bossier stated, "Associated Terminals."

Councilman Smith stated, "That is what I thought. The gentleman called me personally yesterday and I returned his call today. He said that if they are causing a problem he will do whatever it takes to resolve that issue with you. If we could get administration to possibly, even a code enforcement officer, or someone to go out and be a mediator to work this out so that this problem is resolved for you. The gentleman did contact me and I think he is trying to make this work for you."

Councilman Lewis stated, "I will get with Mrs. Robottom and find out what day we can get together to see what action we can take to start the process."

Carl Baloney stated, "We have the same problem in the Garyville. We made contact with the Corp of Engineers and with DEQ. They also sent out people and did readings. My question and concern is, first of all I have a historic home. The law states that they are not supposed to park barges in front of historic sites. Secondly, I googled earth, if you Google earth what in essence has happened is that industry has set up house in front of our houses behind trees that you don't even know. If you don't go on that levee or if you don't Google earth and if you do so you will be amazed at the amount of new industry that is in front of homes creating all of this dust and noise. The time we made the

inquiries was about them being on their PA system at night. They did curtail that but we still have the same problems that they are experiencing in the Edgard area in the Garyville area in the same river. So we are asking also if you can see if there are some limitations to them setting up shops in front of homes. Is the river commercial? It isn't residential."

Councilman Smith stated, "Mr. Baloney, let me do this. I am going to request administration when we attempt to handle that issue in Edgard to also send someone out to speak to Mr. Baloney so that he can point out to them exactly what he is referencing here so that we can see if we can get both issues resolved."

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Wolfe stated, "To Mrs. Robottom, congratulations. We have a bright future ahead of us. You and I will work hand and hand in spite of some of the folks talk. We ran a good election a clean election. I have no qualms that everything will be all right. My concerns will be as always, the employees, the work, the 100 million dollar project that we have and that we all work together in peace and harmony. Sometimes we may get into a little spoil, just tell your husband to stay out of it and we will be alright. I am just kidding. I know it is going to be alright. I commit to you in front of all of these folks, the ones that like me or dislike me that we will work together. Today, tonight is your night. Have fun and enjoy it life it short. God bless you and your family."

Councilman Lewis stated, "I wanted to congratulate Mrs. Robottom also. I talked to her one day last week and I promised I would work with her. She can count on that. She knows what I am all about. I like to get my district work done and I will be working with her to get it done and helping to get stuff done in other districts too. The only way we can survive is if we all work together."

Councilman Millet stated, "I would like to convey the same thing. I talked with Mrs. Robottom yesterday. I told her I would be glad to work with her. I have no problems and hopefully we can carry on the way we have been carrying on for the last couple of years."

Councilman Julien stated, "I too would like to congratulate you Mrs. Robottom. We met earlier. I think it was a good meeting. We had the opportunity to air out a lot of things. I am going to do my best to be positive on the council and if there is anything that you might need to call on me for, you will be able to. Thank you."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I too would like to offer my congratulations to Mrs. Robottom. As a woman on the council it is an amazing day. We had two great candidates in the race. We were going to make history no matter which one was the victor at the end of the day. The parish has chosen you. I will work with you as we have worked in the past before. Like Dale says, we may not always like each other but we should always love each other. I am just very even humbled by the fact that we do have the first woman parish president because I have a daughter and one day now she can say you know what I can do that too. So I think that you have opened the doors and shattered the ceiling a little more. I am very proud of that."

Councilwoman Usry stated, "Congratulations Mrs. Robottom. I have worked with you in the past in a different setting. I will be willing to work with you in this setting also as we move the parish forward."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Mrs. Robottom I guess we are going to have a really great working council here because everybody is on your side tonight."

Councilman Smith stated, "I really do want to congratulate you. You ran a really good race. I have to kind of echo what Ms. Hotard said because you know I have a daughter. She is always telling me daddy I want to be a council member just like you. I can't go home tonight. She is going to tell me no I want to be parish president like Mrs. Robottom. Again congratulations and let's move St. John Parish forward. Thank you."

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Natalie Robottom stated, "I looked around just to see if we had some of the same people across the hallway so I am not going to repeat everything I said during the inauguration. I do want to extend my thanks to all of you for welcoming me back. I look forward to, as I said earlier, working with all of you, some of you for the first time and others a second time, a second go around. This is an honor and a privilege and I do not take it lightly. I will not forget about the privilege and the desire to serve. To everyone who has tried to call I would like to apologize publicly. My phone at home and my cell phone has been ringing off of the hook. I can't take down the names before I am getting other messages but I want to thank you for your congratulations and again apologizing for not getting back to you. Before I go any further I do want to acknowledge the support and cooperation I have received from the administration, Mr. McTopy, Mr. Boe and all their staff. The council members who acknowledged that they did take the time to meet with me earlier last week and the end of this week to discuss their priorities and needs. What we came out of that meeting with was that we all have the same desire and that is to serve the people of this parish. Each of them have specific areas and concerns. My responsibility is the entire parish. We have committed to each other. To one follow through on the bond issue projects. To look at, meet and discuss the needs of the areas and develop a working relationship to get those things done. That is my pledge to you. That is their pledge to you. We are going to work together to make St. John the great parish that it can be. To the employees that are the back bone of the parish, like Mr. Wolfe says, despite the rumors to the contrary I look forward to establishing and re-establishing relationships with you all. There is work to be done. We need to understand your issues as well as the parish's needs. It is our jobs, all of us, to work together, the executive branch, the legislative branch, our employees and the citizens to improve the lives for everyone. Now I would like to take the time to introduce some of my key staff and share some of my short range plans for the office. My chief administrative officer will be Marie Brown-Mercedel. Mrs. Brown is currently the chief of staff for the Department of Social Services for the state of Louisiana. She is a wealth of administrative experience. She has served as a key member of management teams geared towards maximizing employee engagement and community collaboration. She is very skilled at evaluating situations, identifying strengths and challenges,

developing effective strategies and managing efforts successfully to achieve the desired outcome. Mrs. Brown-Mercedel has worked extensively with top levels of both executive and legislative branches of the state and local governments. She has very high values and integrity. I am very pleased to have her on our team and I am sure she will be an asset to St. John Parish. She will be available to join us full time on May 24th when her commitment to the state is fulfilled. Angelic Sutherland will serve as an administrative assistant to the parish president with duties to include but not limited to chairing the committee on governmental ethics, providing legal assistance to areas that address code enforcement and blighted property issues and as a liaison with other elected officials in governmental agencies to coordinate parish services and projects. Mrs. Sutherland is a practicing attorney with administrative experience at both the local and state level. She is dependable. She is trustworthy and has demonstrated professionalism at every level. I look forward to reuniting with Mrs. Sutherland in parish government. Patrick McTopy has agreed to remain with my administration as chief financial officer through May 31st. He is remaining on staff to facilitate continuity of services to the residents of St. John. He will also help to provide a seamless transition across administrations. Mr. McTopy has a wealth of historical knowledge as well as a thorough understanding of the ongoing projects and programs that will be beneficial during this transition. Mr. McTopy, thanks for agreeing to stay on with us. Mr. Buddy Boe has agreed to remain with my administration as a special assistant to the parish president serving as the director of communications and transition coordinator through May 31st. Again his continued service is in the best interest of the parish as we make this shorter than normal transition across administration. It is important to maintain an open and informed relationship with our residents of the parish. Mr. Boe will serve well in that capacity through the transition process. Tomorrow, as I mentioned earlier, I will meet with the current administrative staff members and schedule individual meetings. They have provided me with a transition document that details some of their activities. However it was just a snap shot and I would like to discuss with them as to what they see as their plans for moving the parish forward. I didn't move very quickly in appointing any other members because of the status of ordinance 10-12. Depending on what happened with that, I felt like I would be limited and didn't pursue making those additional appointments but I will work on that this week. Because the transition period was brief, I will not rush the decision of evaluating and filling critical positions. Those decisions will be made based on qualifications, competence and a desire to serve the public. Any changes to my administration will reflect my commitment to the citizens to serve with honesty and integrity and make government open and transparent. Your patience with me while doing so is requested to allow me to make decisions that are in the best interest of the parish. Within the next week, a presidential advisory committee will be formed to address governmental ethics, review public safety issues specifically our fire department, economic development and jobs, recreation, arts and culture, public works and utilities, health and human services, planning and zoning and finances. The committee will include members of my campaign staff, representation from the council, community leaders and residents with experience in the areas appointed. I anticipate a report within sixty days of forming the committee with recommendations for improving my office. All bond and capital projects will remain on schedule in accordance with the wishes of the people. These projects

are needed and will be completed with efficiency and fiscal responsibility. We will get it done. Again I am very excited to serve as your parish president. I look forward to working cooperatively with all of you. The residents of St. John Parish have entrusted all of us to the future of this parish. We will not let them down. Thank you everyone for attending tonight. It has been somewhat calmer than I thought. It has been very exciting and I am very pleased with the turn out. I am very pleased to be back here. There is a reception in the fire house following the meeting, everyone is invited. There is also an inaugural gala Thursday night at the Quality Inn at 7:00 PM on the East Bank. Please come out and join us there anyone who wasn't able to make it tonight. It is an opportunity to socialize with everyone here. If you have not received an invitation we will make sure to get all the council members one. An invitation is not necessary it is open to the public. I work for you. Please come out and celebrate with us. I look forward to my tenure here and I look forward to moving St. John forward together. We can do that. Thank you."

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:15 PM, Councilman Julien moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Lee absent.

/s/Ronnie Smith
COUNCIL CHAIR

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary

PRESIDENTIAL VETO

*Notation: At the meeting of 5-25-10 a motion to override the veto on motion to renew the current janitorial and grass cutting contracts with the same vendors for the next three (3) years failed.