# OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL TUESDAY, MAY 13, 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 Edgard Courthouse, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, May 13, 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, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilwoman District IV

#### ABSENT: None

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

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

Legal Counsels Jeff Perilloux and Kerry Brown were present.

#### Haston Lewis - Proclamation - Grace Cook - Library 25 yeas of service

Councilman Lewis congratulated and thanked Mrs. Cook for her 25 years of service to our library. He explained that she had already received her proclamation at a retirement dinner, but wanted to acknowledge her accomplishments.

### Comcast - Presentation - Regarding services on the Westbank

Councilman Lewis asked that this item be carried over to the next agenda in Edgard.

#### Consent Agenda

<u>Items:</u> Approval of Minutes April 22, 2008, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church Eucharistic Procession - Sunday, May 25, 2008 - 6:30 PM

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes April 22, 2008, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - SJA Catholic Church Eucharistic Procession - Sunday, May 25, 2008 - 6:30. The motion passed unanimously.

#### PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

<u>08-13</u> (Public Hearing Held) 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)

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 08-13. The motion passed unanimously.

<u>08-14</u> (Public Hearing Held) 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)

**MOTION:** Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 08-14. The motion passed unanimously.

<u>08-15</u> (Public Hearing Held) 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)

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 08-15. The motion passed unanimously.

O8-16 (Public Hearing Held) 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)

<u>MOTION:</u> Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 08-16. The motion passed unanimously.

<u>08-17</u> (Public Hearing Held) 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)

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the

motion to accept Ordinance 08-17. The motion passed unanimously.

 $\underline{08-18}$  (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending ordinance 94-74 so as to incorporate new streets into the St. John the Baptist Parish address system. (P. Oncale)

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 08-18. The motion passed unanimously.

O8-19 (Public Hearing Held) 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)

Councilman Wolfe stated, "This ordinance here is in total conflict with our equalization program. If we pass this ordinance tonight, we can forget about equalization. Plus it would give the parish president, not only the one we have now, but any other parish president in the future the opportunity to select individuals that he or she may want. I just think it is unfair to our employees, this ordinance. We have employees that have been working ten, fifteen, twenty-five or thirty years. It is unfair to them. For example, if a job comes up on the board that employee that we have working now may want to apply for the job, but if someone applies for the job with a college education that person can take precedent over our existing employees. I just think we need to table this. I think the committee should get together with administration and work this out. This is in total conflict with our equalization program. At one time before equalization came into being we had people working the same job, same job title but not the same pay. We had people just coming on board making more than our employees that have been working ten, fifteen, twenty years. So we need to bring some fairness and justice to our employees. This ordinance here will not bring fairness or justice. I just think we need to form a committee again and get with administration."

**MOTION:** Councilman Smith moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to open discussion on Ordinance 08-19. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Smith stated, "Mr. Wolfe, if I am not mistaken and I just want to make sure that I am understanding what you are saying clearly. You are okay with the upgrades of the water plant operators to the different steps?"

Councilman Wolfe stated, "I want to table the entire ordinance. I think that is not the unfair part."

MOTION: Councilman Wolfe moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to table Ordinance 08-19. The motion failed with 4 yeas (Wolfe, Lewis, Millet, Julien), 4 neas (Lee, Smith, Usry, Hotard) and 1 abstaining (Cheryl Millet).

Councilman Smith stated, "This is why I am asking that question. If you are okay with doing the upgrades to the water plant operators, I have no problem even if we have to re-introduce this ordinance separately to upgrade and get that portion of this done. I am saying that because I want to move forward with upgrading these positions for the water plant

operators. I am fine even if we have to separate the ordinance into two different ordinances. Table it and come back and do it that way. I would just like to move forward with upgrading the water plant operators."

Councilman Wolfe asked, "Legal counsel can we piece meal this ordinance?"

Jeff Perilloux, Parish Attorney, stated, "In order to do that you would have to re-introduce an ordinance or two ordinances because you would be causing substantial change to the ordinance as it is written. So I don't think that you could piece meal it. You would have to do it separately."

Councilman Smith stated, "Administration, can we separate these two ordinances and than re-introduce the one for the water plant operators so that we could move forward with that? I know that is important. Then come back in another ordinance. What I am saying is split this into two ordinances and re-introduce both ordinances."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Jeff when we introduce our ordinances tonight can we just introduce it then?"

Jeff Perilloux stated, "You can re-introduce it tonight. You cannot discuss it obviously, but you can re-introduce the ordinance tonight. Then of course have it advertised and it would be able to be voted on at the next meeting."

Councilman Smith asked, "Mr. Wolfe would that be a problem? If it is a problem I can table the whole thing."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Ronnie this is so important that I would like to get with administration and do the whole thing. You know if we piece meal it then we aren't doing justice again. I would just rather administration come with a proposal that we can live with, the employees can live with and make sure that it is fair to everyone."

Councilman Smith stated, "That is fine Mr. Wolfe. The only reason I didn't vote for your table was so I could discuss that and ask that question."

Councilman Lee stated, "First of all before we leave this meeting tonight I want to hear administration's justification and reasoning for this ordinance. For the last five to six years we have been under an administrative order. I have asked each administration to develop a plan that we can get ourselves off of this administrative order for our water. Everybody and their brother has told me that we have to hire more qualified class four operators to make a number of things happen but no one has ever offered a plan to do such and the civil service issue has been one of the issues. Now I assure you Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Lewis and anyone else who wants to discuss it that I have sat in on equalization meetings. I voted for the equalization plan. I am in support of it, but I am also in support of getting this parish off of the administrative order, which is that violation that we get once every two or three quarters that comes from the DEQ about us being in violation for the quality of our water. This ordinance addresses that issue. It is the first time that any administration has come forward with a bonified plan to do this. So regardless of what happens tonight, if we are ready to pass it fine. If we are ready to table it fine, but I want to hear administration's position on why they are introducing this because it has been presented to me that the reason is that we have got to improve the quality of the water. We cannot do it with the employees that we have now. We cannot meet the specs that we need with the class four operators and etc. So I am asking at least let us hear from the administration on what their thought process was in bringing this

ordinance forward tonight. If I am off base on this, I will vote for the table also, but this is how I feel."

Pat McTopy stated, "On page 52 of the agenda book, essentially we will break it into component parts. The first five pertain to the water plant operators. We have the trainee position. We have operator I, II, III, and IV. Now the state mandates that our water plant operators be certified. The certification depends on the amount of the population that the plant or the facility is treating. We have had great difficulty in getting certified plant operators because we cannot pay them what some of the other communities are paying them. In addition to that if our scale is below some of the other parishes, we can lose some of the ones that we do have and we don't have a lot. We have an intense training program going on. We have recently hired a few to bring our staffing up and hopefully we can get these folks trained. The pay that we have now is really not competitive with some of the other facilities. That is all we are trying to do is bring the pay up a little bit. Our present employees when we have openings they can apply for these jobs. Some of the people working in utilities, if they want to go to the water plant and become trained, they can become educated and perhaps make a little more. So that is what we are trying to do with the first five on the list. The sixth one would allow us to give credit for direct job related experience when we hire a person. Let's say and Bill uses the example of an equipment operator and I use the example of a clerk, bookkeeping or accountant clerk. It may not require a college education, but we might have somebody applying that has a lot of experience. Maybe they came from the banking field. Maybe they worked for a CPA company but they have a lot of experience, doesn't necessarily have to have a college education. All we are asking is that we be allowed instead of starting them at the bottom of the grade where they have to build up over time to allow us to apply some job related experience and give them a little higher starting pay. The next item will be to create a grade eleven. As you know we go to a grade ten, the highest grade of pay that we have under our civil service system is up to a grade ten. We are asking that we create a grade eleven and create the classification of professional administrators. For example if we need a planner in the planning and zoning department to help us plan our growth to the future, the present pay scale that we have topping out at ten it may not be high enough to attract the qualified educated people that we need in that classification. So that would create that professional administrator classification in grade eleven. The final item would be to create the title of professional administrator. Suppose at some point the parish is growing, the population is growing, the need for engineering services has increased suppose at some point? We would like to hire somebody right out of college with an engineer's degree. Not to replace anybody that we use but someone to help us on our day to day activities, forty hours a week, to hire a degreed engineer, where he can come in get some experience. With the pay that we offer we can't attract them now. But if we create this grade then perhaps we can go out onto the open market and hire somebody. That is what we are asking for."

Councilman Lee stated, "I appreciate you comments."

Councilman Lewis stated, "You see I don't have a problem with that. But the problem I got, it looks like when we go out and get somebody or hire them when we need them, we can pay them the money and we got somebody with the same job title and we seem not to pay them. I can tell you a water plant operator that this going on with. We have one on this side of the river. You all brought him over here. He worked over here doing a lot of overtime. It wasn't under this administration. It was under the past administration. We paid this guy x amount of dollars where the guy we have we didn't pay him the same way. We have him still with a lower salary."

Councilwoman Usry asked, "Is that going to help with overtime?"

Pat McTopy stated, "I don't know if that will specifically help the overtime, but we are doing several things. We are attacking overtime on several fronts. One of them we have had a shortage of water plant operators, so as a result those that we do have have to work overtime. So I guess in answer to your question, in theory it could help because if we can get more than the ones on the payroll don't have to work all the time."

Councilwoman Usry asked, "How many of our present employees are going through the training process now?"

Pat McTopy stated, "Just about all of them completed training in water about a month ago. We had a great number of the utilities people. Not just the water plant operators, but some in the distribution system that attended training because. They are required to be certified also. Several of them did pass the exam. We are in the process of giving them their little raise right now."

Councilman Julien stated, "My concern is with the grade six. I understand the water issue. I am thinking maybe we can create a situation where we have people coming from other departments working part time and as far as the grade six goes. I just think that it is not fair and not loyal to the employees that we have if we allow someone to come in and get the same pay as someone who has been working for us for twenty or thirty years and then we allow someone else to come in. I think we have to have loyalty to our employees. That is my thoughts on it."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "You see all that they said here tonight? I attended the civil service meeting. They can accomplish everything they said here tonight by hiring a person depending on their skills, depending on their everything. It doesn't take what this ordinance says to take care of our employees. Grade eleven is a dangerous grade. If we pass this ordinance the way it is written, we will give the parish president the authority to do just about what he wants to do and I am not saying that because of you Bill. I am just saying we give the parish president that is in place right now the authority to go out and put a job on the board. Any Jane or Sue he can take and put into that position. Now we can sit here tonight and listen to the explanation of this ordinance, but Mr. Hubbard can do exactly what this ordinance says without this ordinance. You advertise the job; you get the best qualified person. You give the employees an opportunity to apply first. If you don't get the qualifications and the experience you want to you can go outside and get a person. This ordinance, as far as I am concerned, has some hidden facts. I am bringing some of them out tonight. Don't be fooled by saying in terms of the operators, we should have done that a long time ago. Under the past administration there were some operators that wanted to go to school that weren't allowed to go to school. Why? I do not know. But the past administration had people that wanted to go to school and they were refused. I could bring an individual to this meeting at any time and attest to what I am saying here tonight. All I am saying is that we are the council. Whenever we pass an ordinance we expect administration to follow through with it. It becomes law and if we allow this to pass here tonight, we have turned our back on our employees. Give them an opportunity to excel and I can go along with it, but this here tonight, an employee has nothing to look forward to. It is unfair to the employees. Now we all have employees throughout our districts and divisions and they should and they must be protected. Again I think we should have a workshop. Some of the council members that feel that this is a good ordinance; they should be at the workshop. I will be there because I don't think it is fair. I don't think it is constitutional, some of this ordinance, I really don't and

that will be proven also. That is why we have lawyers here. You are going to tell me that you are going to pass an ordinance that gives an individual outside of our work area the opportunity to come here and capitalize on this ordinance and get a good job, when we have employees here expecting that when something comes available to move up in our jobs, but this won't do it. If I were the parish president I would love to see an ordinance like that that would give me the opportunity to do whatever I want to do at anytime I want to do it."

Pat McTopy stated, "I can understand some of the employees being concerned. As Mr. Lewis mentioned before the meeting about some of the current water plant operators. This is going to help them. This is an opportunity for them to make more money. It is not going to hurt them. It is going to help them."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "I don't have a problem with helping the employees. I have a problem with not being fair to our employees. With our water plant operators, I can appreciate what you are saying, that is why I am saying that we need a workshop to iron all of this out. Water plant operator good. Job grade eleven dangerous. Giving another employee an opportunity to come in and take the job of one of our full time employees that has been here ten, twenty, thirty years, that is bad."

Pat McTopy stated, "I don't know if any of our civil service employees would apply or qualify for the grade eleven because grade eleven is talking about professionals. We are talking about people with degrees and if they have a degree and are capable they surely would be considered."

Councilman Julien stated, "As Mr. Wolfe is saying, it is just not fair. If you have an individual that is there, they might apply for that job but the discretion is still going to fall upon the parish president or the individual who is in office at that time to be able to give the job to. So I understand the concerns and I again think that it is not the best thing for the employees, as Mr. Wolfe is saying."

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, stated, "I think this is being blown way out of proportion. I guess everybody had their own opinion. We feel like it is a good ordinance. We feel like we want to help our water plant operators, all of them. You have to go through testing to be a water operator class I, II, III and IV. We are trying to move them up the charts. That is easy. I think we all can agree that that is good for the current employees that we have. Can we agree on that? As far as creating a professional grade eleven, I suggested that. We have gone through the civil service board. It has gone through the process and here we are tonight. I think it is a good idea because our parish is void in middle management. We have directors. I would like to bring in some engineers. Some professional people that have certificates that specialize in their fields. I think it is a good ordinance. Does it give the parish president authority? I have the authority already. This is nothing new. It doesn't give me sole discretion. As a matter of fact, we have a human resources director, we have directors that they do all the interviews. I have not gotten involved in any hires other than the directors that you see sitting here tonight. They come up with the recommendations. I have no reason to say yes to this one or no to that one. It is whoever they think is the best qualified. The professional administrative position is needed in this parish and if the council so chooses, if you all decide that it is not needed that is okay. It is our idea. I think it is a good idea. I think the most questionable part of this ordinance is giving credit to those, I use heavy equipment operators, to those people who are applying for different jobs that might have thirty years experience working for Boh Brothers or Nalco. They can apply for a job, just like the current employee. Our employee who has been working for the parish for five years on a back hoe, excavator or dozer, he is not going to

have the experience that this guy at thirty years has. He might start at the parish at an entry level position and work at the parish for five years, but we need operators. Public works only has one operator right now. If I can get this guy from Boh Brothers that is retired and needs a job, I would like to move him up the scale. Is that going to affect some of the other employees? Yes it is. I am not going to sit here and say it is not. Do some people think that is going to be unfair? Yes, if you start at the bottom level and in five years you are not making let's say \$15.00 an hour and I want to hire Danny Millet because he is a good operator that has been working for Boh Brothers for thirty years. I want to bring him in just like any other private company would do. I think that is common sense. I think it is a good business practice. I think it is a good ordinance. This is your decision. We have made our decision. You have an ordinance right here tonight to vote on. It is up to you. If you want to table it, that is your discretion. I would prefer if you vote yes or no. Let's move on. Does anyone have a question for me? I am here sincere."

Councilman Wolfe asked, "If you have the discretion to do it, why are we here discussing this ordinance?"

Bill Hubbard stated, "The discretion to do what Mr. Wolfe?"

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Whatever you used the word discretion describing. If you have the discretion to take care of your employees and to do the things you need to do to upgrade them then why are you here with this ordinance? All I am saying is that we have operators that have been here twenty years, good operators, then I can see if you had a meeting with the employees, evaluated them and then came back and said look we have some good employees and operators and I would like to bring them up."

Bill Hubbard stated, "That makes sense Mr. Wolfe. I am all for that."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "You see you are not saying that."

Bill Hubbard stated, "Maybe I am not explaining it the way you want to hear it."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "I want to hear it right r-i-g-h-t. I want to hear the right thing."

Bill Hubbard stated, "The ordinance that you have in front of you right here is going to give the water plant operators a raise. That is a good idea. Professional administrator, I would like to get some young engineers and professional people and a planner in planning and zoning. We have FEMA elevations, flood control projects going on. There are professional positions that we need to fill. At the current rates that we have in civil service it is not going to happen. I can hire more engineers or consultants all day long. We probably spend, to my knowledge, probably 1.5 to 2 million dollars a year on private consultants. I would like the ability to hire some people to work directly for the parish. Do I have the discretion? I cannot go out and make these changes without the council. I am presenting this to the council. This is your decision. Once you say yes, we are rolling on. If you say no, I am going to go back to doing what I was doing. I would ask that you don't table it. Please don't table it. Let's move on vote yes or vote no."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "I would ask when you come, come right."

Bill Hubbard stated, "Vote no then. Anyone that thinks it is not right vote no."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "When you first started talking about this ordinance, you come here with we have a dead line in terms of our water system. The operators should make this and the operators should do this. That has nothing to do with this ordinance. By right you as parish president can take any operator and upgrade that individual at any time."

Bill Hubbard stated, "No I can't Mr. Wolfe."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Don't tell me you can't."

Bill Hubbard stated, "Well I am telling you I cannot."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "You tell me and I tell you, so here we are. I am saying that get it right, come back and we will do it right."

Bill Hubbard stated, "I say vote no or vote yes."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "The way it is written is haphazardly. I really don't appreciate sign language. I really don't appreciate it. You all can look and you can do what you want to do when I have the floor, I want the floor. If you are going to run it, run it right. I am finished for a little while."

Councilman Smith stated, "Mr. Wolfe, I would like to introduce an ordinance tonight, just on the portion of the upgrading of the water plant operators so that we can get our water portion taken care of. I would like to introduce that if that is okay."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "That is fine."

Councilman Smith stated, "I would like to table this ordinance and from our attorneys I would like to know right afterwards can I introduce another ordinance or when can I do it?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "In the introduction I can do it as 08-26 and just read the portion that we are going to keep."

<u>MOTION:</u> Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to table Ordinance 08-19. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 nae (Lee).

<u>08-20</u> (Public Hearing Held) 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)

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 08-20. The motion passed unanimously.

<u>08-21</u> (Public Hearing Held) 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)

**MOTION:** Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 08-21. The motion passed unanimously.

#### INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

<u>08-22</u> An ordinance stating that section 2:5 of sub-chapter A, "In General" of Chapter 2 of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances is hereby amended so as to provide for a change in polling

places for precinct 1-3. The polling place for above mentioned precinct in St. John the Baptist Parish is hereby changed as follows: from St. John the Baptist Parish Courthouse, Edgard to St. John Westside Volunteer Fire Department, Station 92, 5733 Highway 18, Wallace, Louisiana 70090. (H. Lewis)

- <u>08-23</u> An ordinance to amend ordinance 92-33 to change the consumer price index used to calculate the annual consumer price index adjustment from "The National Consumer Price Index published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics which shows a rise or decrease in the cost of living index for New Orleans, LA over the level of such cost of living in the previous year, to the U.S. city average 12-month percentage change in the Water and Sewer and Trash Collection Service Group of the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. (P. McTopy)
- 08-24 An ordinance for a request for a re-subdivision of a portion of
  ground located in Section 20, Township 12 South, Range 18, into Lots T-1,
  T-2, & T-3 East at Wallace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana.
  (Shirley Trench, PZS-08-004) (M. Henderson)
- 08-25 An ordinance authorizing Parish President, William J. Hubbard, to sign all documents necessary to purchase Lot #13 Block M, Lot #1 Block L, and Lot #1 Block M on N. W.  $2^{nd}$  Street (formerly Bootsie Ave.) as per exhibit Platt of Riverlands Drafting Service dated July 13, 2005 attached hereto. Said purchase subject to clear title exam and approval by parish legal counsel and such other terms and conditions deemed appropriate by the Parish President. (W. Hubbard)
- <u>08-26</u> 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 (R. Smith)

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

MOTION: Councilman Smith moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to grant bid for concrete, sidewalk and driveway repairs to J. Caldarera & Co., authorized administration to go out for bids on concrete street repairs, granted administration authorization to request for proposals for debris monitoring and supervision, granted administration authorization to sign the contract for emergency generator services (Castay Inc.), granted administration authorization to advertise for lease for mineral exploration of the following: Lot 1A East 11<sup>th</sup> Street (Mathieu Heights Subdivision) Lot 19 - Timbermill Subdivision - Garyville, LA, and granted administration authorization to go out for bids for the construction of the new Animal Shelter. The motion passed unanimously.

## DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

<u>Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters</u>

There were no personnel matters at this time.

#### Jaclyn Hotard - Update NANO filtration

There were no new updates at this time.

#### Jaclyn Hotard - Grass along servitude behind Tiffany & Magnolia

Pat McTopy stated, "Mr. Howard is not here this evening. He has informed me that this should be done by the end of the week."

#### Dale Wolfe/Charles Julien - Work Orders Division A

Councilman Julien stated, "I have some work orders that I hadn't had completed. I have 167 uncompleted work orders. I am trying to find out what is taking so long to get the work done. I have some stuff on 31<sup>st</sup> Street, work orders that I put in. Work orders on 30<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Street all throughout District III. I cannot seem to have the work completed and my constituents are constantly calling me. I have three work orders for each one of those that I just named and I have more, but I just can't seem to get the work done in my district. So I am asking administration to address that issue."

Pat McTopy stated, "I can't speak specifics Mr. Julien, but I can say that we have hundreds of work orders that must be done on any given week. It is just not possible to do every one of them immediately and public works does the best that they can. In fact Mr. Howard gave a speech at the agenda meeting last week concerning this very topic. We had I believe three council members there at that time. He stated that he is doing the best that he can with the resources that he has. Now if you have some specifics that you would like addressed, I would suggest you contact him. Mr. Wolfe had a question about work orders also so that the council would be made aware of the status of work orders at any given time. The public would be made aware at any given time. What we are working on now is a computerized work order system so that every work order will be entered into the computer. It would be accessible for people with the internet. I believe that Mr. Hubbard has agreed to send copies to the concerned citizen once they are complete. So we are working on a system that is going to improve the way we handle work orders. Again this has been a chronic problem for many years to keep up with all of the work orders that have come through."

Councilman Julien asked, "Would it be asking too much to have each district with maybe three or four workers that could do the small stuff? Is that something that we can have done because in my district, it is a lot of small stuff, but it is just taking too long to get it done?"

Pat McTopy stated, "That is an interesting point. One of the things that we are looking at seriously is a crew to address hot button issues. For example on any given day we may get something that is maybe not an emergency, but it is a big priority. So what we are doing now is pulling workers from scheduled work to go and take care of something that is more important than the routine stuff. So we are having to detract from the daily work schedule. We are going to create a crew of three to four people that are going to take care of the hot button areas."

Councilman Smith stated, "Councilman Julien this may help.

Administration I don't know if this is possible, but if we are so far behind on work orders can't we sub some of this work to private contractors so that can knock some of these work orders out. Can we do that? It is just a recommendation."

Pat McTopy stated, "Thank you. That is something that we can consider. I will speak with Mr. Hubbard and Mr. Howard tomorrow morning about this."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "I had a problem with work orders. Not that I knew what was going on in terms of the work, but in discussing at the agenda meeting Mr. Hubbard said he had a good plan for work orders. So I am going to yield to him and hopefully he and I can get together and work that out. Under council briefs I will explain it a little more."

#### OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business at this time.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

# <u>Charles Julien - Override Planning and Zoning - Trailer Placement - 529 N.W. $2^{nd}$ Street - Reserve - Yvonne Peal</u>

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "This will be carried over. This is to just make the public aware and it will be voted on at the next meeting."

# Pat McTopy - R08-16 - A resolution requesting Wal-Mart's participation in the Carrollwood Road Project

Pat McTopy stated, "As you are aware the council has authorized an engineer to do design work on repairs to the Carrollwood Road project. He is working on that now. It is felt that Wal-Mart should participate in the cost. So what we have prepared is a resolution asking for their participation in the cost of the design and construction. We have a recent letter from Wal-Mart that they do desire to work with us so we can forward this resolution to Wal-Mart and maybe we can get working on that project."

Councilman Lee stated, "I appreciate the administration writing this. It is well put together. I would like to be at least one of the authors of it. So I wanted to make that motion. I want to thank the administration. We have had several meetings on this and it has been an issue for some time. I want to thank Bill and his staff for bringing this to a head. We did have officials at a vice-president level from their main office come down and we had some quite frank discussions. I think it was fruit full but we will find out, but until you put them under notice in writing we won't know for sure. I am confident that Wal-Mart will step up and do the right thing."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Can I get a second on my behalf? This is my district?"

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I will second it. I just want to thank administration. Carrollwood has been a problem, especially since my

office is right there and I deal with it every day. I have people coming into me and asking me everyday when are you going to fix it. We are doing it and I appreciate the fact that you are working so steadfastly on that."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would just like to share the same thoughts. We have been working on this for a long time. I have been in on a lot of the meetings. I am glad that this administration has kind of taken the bull by the horns and didn't just let it fall on the side and is moving forward with it."

<u>MOTION:</u> Councilman Lee moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to accept Resolution R08-16 - A resolution requesting Wal-Mart's participation in the Carrollwood Road Project. The motion passed unanimously.

R08-16 WHEREAS, Wal-Mart undertook construction repairs to a portion on Carrollwood drive approximately 4 years ago and, WHEREAS, the construction repairs did not include repairs to the road base and, WHEREAS, within months after construction repairs the road began to deteriorate in areas utilized by heavy trucks servicing Wal-Mart and, WHEREAS, Due in part to the heavy truck usage, Carrollwood Drive is experiencing significant road foundation failures and, WHEREAS, the road failures are a serious public safety problem to residents, WHEREAS, St. John the Baptist Parish has contracted with an engineering firm to prepare plans and specifications to repair the above section of Carrollwood Drive said repairs to proceed upon completion of plans and specifications, and WHEREAS, the cost of engineering and construction repairs represent a major part of the Public Works budget for 2008. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that St. John the Baptist Parish Council hereby requests that Wal-Mart participate in the cost of design and construction repairs of Carrollwood Drive from Airline Highway to Dominican Drive. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Wal-Mart Regional Vice President and to Wal-Mart Headquarters. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of plans, specifications and all bids received be forwarded to Wal-Mart immediately upon opening of public bids. The resolution passed unanimously.

#### CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Smith stated, "I would like to congratulate all the seniors from all the parish high schools and any parish personnel that are graduating from college. I would like to congratulate them on a job well done. I would like to congratulate Garyville Magnate for becoming the first K-8 public school to be accredited. We are going to touch on that more at the next meeting."

Councilman Julien stated, "I am wondering if administration or the attorneys may be able to provide us with some information on the incorporation because I am hearing a lot of information and I am not really versed on what is right and what is not. I need some documentation."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "If you like we can make that request of the administration and get that information to you."

Jeff Perilloux stated, "I would be glad to talk to you one on one. That is something that I would prefer not to talk about in a public forum at this point."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "I just want to say to President Hubbard we had an agenda meeting last week, it was a hot meeting. Mr. Hubbard and I had a lot of fun in terms of discussing some issues, but since then we have gotten together and I would ask tonight that before we have a meeting that we get together with administration or that they get together with us, if we have something on the agenda that is kind of controversial. Let's sit down and talk about it before the meeting. So I appreciate you contacting me and getting together and squaring off some of the things that were on the agenda. So if you hear some fussing not cussing between me and Mr. Hubbard that is just the way we are."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I think there was cussing."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Not cussing, just fussing, but anyways I think we understand each other. I think we will work good together."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I called you too, you don't appreciate my phone call?"

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Mrs. Hotard called me also and she kept me on the phone for about an hour and a half, but we got it together. I appreciate that Jaclyn."

#### PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

There were no presidential remarks at this time.

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

#### 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.

MOTION: Councilman Wolfe moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

As a result of the Executive Session the following action was taken:

 ${\color{red} {\tt MOTION:}}$  Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wolfe seconded the motion to authorize administration to settle the Mehaffie case. The motion passed unanimously.

## ADJOURNMENT:

At  $7:45\ \text{PM}$ , Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Jaclyn Hotard COUNCIL CHAIR

/s/Jackie Landeche Council Secretary