

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MAY 28th, 2013
CHAIR JACLYN HOTARD
VICE CHAIR LENNIX MADERE

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, May 28th, 2013, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Lucien Gauff, III, Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Lennix Madere, Councilman District III, Marvin Perrilloux, Councilman District IV, Larry Snyder, Councilman District VI, Michael Wright, Councilman District V, Ranney Wilson, Councilman, District II, Cheryl Millet, Councilwoman, District VII, Art Smith, Councilman, District I, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B

ABSENT: None

Councilwoman Millet led the Prayer. Councilman Smith led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Jeff Perilloux, Billy O'Regan, and Vercell Fiffie were present.

Natalie Robottom - Presentation - Water Infrastructure Report

Results of meetings conducted by a committee of engineers and parish employees selected to review the current water system for LaPlace, as well as develop short-and long-term solutions and associated costs to address this issue, was presented. Projects and funding opportunities available for disaster recovery were also taken into account in long-term planning.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes May 14th, 2013, Regular

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes May 14th, 2013, Regular Meeting. The motion passed with 1 abstention (Hotard).

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

13-10 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval to further extend the conditional Approval for an additional twelve (12) months of the Grove Subdivision, Phase 2B Lots 80-96, Lots 114-133, Lots 278-281 and Lot 350, and Parcels H-3, H-4, H-5, DS-5 and DS-6, all being a Portion of New Era Plantation, located north of Airline Highway and The Grove Subdivision, Phase 2A, east of LaPlace Park Subdivision and west of New Era Subdivision, in Sections 19 and 72, T-11-S, R-7-E, Southeast District of Louisiana, east of the

Mississippi River, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana.
(N. Robottom)

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "The Grove subdivision is it going to stop right where the tree line is or are we going further back or is that is just the undeveloped on the east side of the neighborhood?"

Harold Flynn, Flynn Land Design, LLC, stated, "This land owner only owns up to the end of LaPlace Park. I guess that would be St. Andrews Blvd. just up to the wood line. There is one more phase and that is what this extension is for. There is still about 25 acres that would have to be platted south of that woodland."

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-10. The motion passed unanimously.

13-11 An ordinance to rescind Ordinance 09-37 - Culvert Fees. (J. Hotard)

Councilwoman Hotard removed Ordinance 13-11 from the agenda.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

13-12 An ordinance pursuant to Article III, Section C of St. John the Baptist Parish Charter to amend Section 2-108 to create an additional Department to be called the Drainage Department, providing that it shall be under the direction of an appointed Director who shall be responsible for developing, coordinating, and implementing a comprehensive plan to address drainage problems that exist throughout the Parish. (R. Wilson)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Millet stated, "At this time I would like to ask that the council accept the recommendation of the finance committee."

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed with 1 abstention (Hotard).

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

There were no department/engineer reports tonight.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lennix Madere - (Carry Over 4-9-13) Comcast

Councilman Madere asked that this item be removed from the agenda.

Ranney Wilson - (Carry Over 4-23-13) Drainage

Councilman Wilson asked that this item be taken up further down on the agenda.

Jaclyn Hotard - (Carry Over 4-23-13) Crevasse

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Do we have any updates on the progress of anything going on in the Crevasse area?"

Brian Nunes, Director of Roads & Bridges, stated, "We did do some work out there. We surveyed some things we are just having issues because there is not enough room to put culverts out there so we are investigating pumps. We have already received one quote for a pump. We are trying to seek out two more of a similar size so we could have three competitive bids on this and we are working through the drainage budget to try to purchase a pump for that area because the canal being as high as it is is causing a big drainage problem if we could pump down that canal then the residents shouldn't have as much water in the streets but it is an ongoing process."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Just keep me posted."

Ranney Wilson - (Carry Over 5-14-13) Update on parish vehicle, GPS, equipment information

Councilman Wilson stated, "I received the information that I requested today and I still haven't had time to look at it or digest it yet just go ahead and take it off of the agenda."

NEW BUSINESS:

Ranney Wilson - Burt Cashio - concerned citizen

Burt Cashio, Garyville resident, stated, "For the past 45 years I have been living at 254 Anthony F. Monica in Garyville, this last year was a nightmare not only for me but also for my neighbors. We live but one mile from the levee yet we flooded. I had \$60,000.00 damage in my house something that should never have happened. We did not flood from water that backed from the lake, we flooded from water that came from the fields in front of us and got to the Railroad and could go no further due to the culverts under the Railroad that were plugged. The water backed up and flooded all of us. I have over 30 pictures I took two weeks ago and a large Pictometry picture of all of our canals from Highway 54 to Albert Street which is right by Garyville general store. All of the canals are mostly overgrown or plugged. We will get another hurricane and without these ditches dug we will flood again. Why is nothing being done to clean the canals in Garyville? Look at the pictures they tell the whole story, Highway 54 may be a state highway but if the state will not clean it who will? The canals in front of us that drain the fields are so overgrown that the water has to come towards us instead of draining like it is supposed to. The canal at the end of Anthony Monica and ICI road is totally plugged. It looks like a beaver dam. The water can go nowhere. Are we supposed to wait for the railroads to clean the culverts under the track? Nothing is being done in Garyville period, I ask why? Don't tell me that the equipment is broken because that is a crock. We have people that know how to operate the equipment. Are they doing their job? They have a foreman that oversees everything that is supposed to be going on. The ball has been dropped by someone. Look at the pictures and tell me if you see some sort of progress being done in Garyville. There is a crust pipe at the crossing of Garyville Northern and the Railroad one of the main drains

under the track by Garyville General Store is totally plugged and has been for a long time again look at the pictures you will realize that if the canals and culverts are not cleaned we do not have a chance if another storm hits. What do we do then? Do we sue the parish or the Railroad? Please let's start cleaning the ditches and canals. The progress in St. John is at a standstill. Look around at Gonzales, Hammond, Houma they are growing by leaps and bounds we are at a standstill I can see nothing being done. I am sure everyone else sees the same thing. I thank you for your time I can see some equipment and cleaning taking place in Garyville I hope. Also I want to congratulate you on one thing, thank you for saying a prayer to start the meeting. Thank you very, very much."

Brian Nunes stated, "We actually went out today to get proposals to spray all of our canals. There are two separate contracts that we are looking to award one is basically the LaPlace and Reserve area and the other hits Garyville, Mt. Airy and the West Bank so as far as getting these canals sprayed yes we are seeking bids now to get that done and try to award that as soon as we get three competitive bids for each one we can go ahead and award that. Some of the culverts the railroad is very tricky about us getting in there and messing with the culverts but we have been working with the CN railroad on some agreements because they are going to be doing some work in Garyville shutting down some different crossings and while they are doing that work train traffic will be stopped and they said that we will be allowed to get in there and blow it which will need a flag man because everything will be shut down. So that is in the process but it is nothing that can happen immediately with the train traffic going through and us having a big truck on their property they just don't allow it but we are taking steps it just can't happen immediately. The cleaning of the canals will happen quickly. The culverts will happen soon after that because the railroad has been willing to work with us on that issue."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I would like to mention it again, like Mr. Cashio stated this was not back water from the lake that flooded. This was rain water that couldn't get out. Every house was flooded. I want to thank Mr. Cashio for all his time spent taking pictures and gathering all of this information. I have been having drainage on the agenda for two months it seems like. How much equipment do we have to do drainage? How many pieces of equipment do we have that can get into small areas and clean some of the canals and ditches?"

Brian Nunes stated, "It depends on the area. We do have equipment."

Councilman Wilson asked, "Do you have anything smaller or other than a backhoe?"

Brian Nunes stated, "We have some bobcats as well."

Councilman Wilson asked, "For drainage purposes?"

Brian Nunes stated, "For whatever purpose we need them for."

Councilman Wilson stated, "That is not good enough but it is not just Garyville. It is Reserve and it seems like the areas that are suffering are the original St. John the Baptist Parish which is south of US 61. That is where all of the problems are they are not getting addressed,

they haven't been addressed and it is time for something to happen. If we cannot find the money I know somebody who can. I have been going on with this for 2 months now and I am tired of it and this administration has got to do something. If you all don't want to cooperate then I will just try to do my best to force it. If the council doesn't vote for it than there is nothing else I can do but they have problems too. I am not the only one."

Councilman Madere stated, "I just want to say I understand exactly what the residents of Garyville are going through. I represent a portion of the parish that also has the flooding problems and all of this has been over a period of time and this administration and Brian have been working to try to improve it. Now as far as the Garyville area after what I have seen tonight is it seems as though they have a big problem too so I am pretty sure that we are going to do all we can to straighten it out and give them some relief as well as in my district too. It isn't going to happen overnight but we are going to try our best."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Mr. Nunes I see some of these photos are really not state highway streets some of them are just really in the neighborhoods. I can understand Mr. Cashio's frustration Councilman Madere and I walked the railroad track and talked with the railroad about cleaning the culverts and it is like we have no clout with them. They tell us they are going to do it and they don't so last week we took this message to Senator Vitter's office and Senator Landrieu in Washington who said that they are going to make a phone call and give us some relief with this because we have been fighting this since January of last year and we haven't seen anything yet. I am tired of it too. It is time for something to be done. The railroad comes through the parish like they own the parish. They don't. We do and we can dictate and tell them what we need done. I know Mr. Denning promised some things in Garyville when they closed the crossing but I haven't seen anything done yet so I don't know when that project is supposed to start as far as cleaning some of the culverts in Garyville by the museum. I am still waiting. We need to get on top of this and maybe if we have a backhoe or something we can start cleaning some of the streets down there at least."

Brian Nunes stated, "This is the first I see of this tonight so I can't address each specific crossing but I am going to take a look at it. If these are our culverts and roads that is something I can handle easily but like you understand the railroad is something that I cannot address on my own. I need their permission. If I get their permission I can send guys out there to do it."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I understand that is why we took it to Vitter and Landrieu and they said they are going to make a call because they are tired of hearing from us complaining about it and something has to be done."

Brian Nunes stated, "I would be happy to work with you on all of that."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Okay we will get together."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Drainage again, we have been discussing this for a long time and I know Brian just got into this job but I am

hearing some things here tonight. We are putting band aids on problems and we are causing other problems. I hear that we are planning on putting pumps in Crevasse. Where will this water go?"

Brian Nunes stated, "It would go towards the McReine pump station."

Councilman Snyder asked, "And that in turn will go towards the back part of River Forest and Cambridge to a big canal back there that goes across the street. So now we are putting more water back there because they need pumps up front to stop the flooding up front but more flooding happened at the back of River Forest and Cambridge. Trust me on that it is going to happen. It is happening right now because we put pumps in Riverlands even though that is part of my district. When we are looking at the problem from the front we need to start looking at the problem from the back. The poor people in Garyville I feel sorry for you because we went to Garyville and rode that Highway 54 and it is so bad over there that water is going over streets into peoples yards instead of going through the culvert it was going over and I took pictures of it that poor place back there people had water to their house and we got to the back water was going back towards the front because there was no water coming out of the canal on the Mt. Airy side on the east side of 54 and closer to the levee it was flooding all the people's homes, the school, the baseball field was flooded and there was no water in the back there by the casino and we talked about that and I said we need to bring that up. They have some problems back there and it is the culverts along 54 not just along that track from the front to the back and look guys all we have to do is get out there when it rains and go down that street and you are going to see where the problem is at but we cannot sit in a truck when it is raining and say well we can't do anything because it is raining. Go take a walk those people have problems back there. They are almost as bad as Cambridge when it rains like that but I am concerned about this pump that you are putting over here. I am concerned about that because that is going to flood us out. I hear all of this now. This is the first I am hearing about pumps out there."

Brian Nunes stated, "It is an idea we are considering nothing has been designed."

Councilman Snyder states, "Well I am hearing about it now and it causes me some concern. So it isn't the idea of being considered it has been talked about."

Councilman Gauff stated, "We have all sat down and walked the tracks with Mr. Denning and we know there is an issue there. The railroad won't allow us to do anything without their permission. You were there Mr. Wilson we proposed new culverts at the grocery store, we proposed digging all that and them cleaning it and they haven't done anything. Like Mr. Perrilloux said since January they have not given us any relief or help. So at least if they would help get some of that water from that side of the track getting through to the north side we would have some relief. Now there are other issues as this shows and as some of the pictures show but if we spray some of the weeds in some of those canals that is a start. As you have been asking for some of the small machinery, some of the ditches, we need to get those things done and I know work orders have been written and some of those need to be caught up on but I think it starts at the culvert, at the canal. We have to

put some sort of pressure, follow up with the Senators, follow up on the council's meetings in DC and see what kind of relief we can get because it starts at the culverts first."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think you all did meet with Mr. Denning and part of the agreement is that they were going to clean that. It is my understanding that they had a time frame they were replacing the tie and they have moved through and the next thing that they were going to do was go into Garyville and start with the closings, roads and culverts and I think there was a culvert by the store that was talked about that part of the project was going to be after they finished the ties. They were sending us updates. Originally they said they would start in St. Charles and move with the tide, once they were finished with that part they would start the culverts, streets and the crossings that were agreed upon and we can get you a time frame on that but it was going to be after they did the ties and I think that Brian actually rode with them to point out where the problems were so we will follow up with them however the first step was to get the ties through. The agreement is in writing and before we agreed to what they wanted we put in the things that we needed and we will make sure that they do that."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I hope Brian has a copy of this also, this would help in prioritizing some of the other jobs that maybe we can get done in Garyville. Thank you Mr. Cashio we need some help in Garyville."

Brian Nunes stated, "These pictures are very helpful and it will help me prioritize the work like you said."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Mr. Nunes I don't want you to take all of the heat because this is not a new problem. This problem has been here for many years for the past two administrations or more some of it has been there for fifty years. Mt. Airy, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Gauff, Mr. Madere and I went to a ladies house that was done by the 8 days of Hope only to go back and get flooded from rain and ruin everything they had done. Mt. Airy has no drainage whatsoever. This is not just canals. You have to get the water to the canals and you have 2 miles of ditches from the levee, the Mississippi River to Highway 61. They have two ditches on each street so you are talking about bunches of miles of ditches and if you don't do them right then don't do them but it has to get done and you need the proper equipment to do it. It is not your fault. Like I said this is old not a new problem and it is time that it gets addressed and I don't care where we find the money, I know where we can find it as well as administration but we need to get it and get something done because the people don't deserve what they are getting and it is not just District II, it is District I, III, IV and V we have to move on this. I have had this on the agenda for two months. All of the people that you see in here all have problems with water just from the rain. We need to get the ditches in between the railroad tracks in Reserve. I don't know the last time they were dug or cleaned or whatever but I guarantee you it wasn't in the last ten years. All I ask is for the rest of the council to support this and I want to thank the people from Garyville that have the problems and I am sorry you have the problems you shouldn't have but thank you all for coming and Mr. Cashio thanks again for all of the work that you did."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would like to also thank Mr. Cashio for

the photos they will be very helpful and also I spoke with the administration today and some of the problems and like Lucien even mentioned a lot of these we could handle this in house very easily some of the ditches are very shallow and can be just cleaned out very easily just sprayed and have it killed and then get it on a schedule where you are being proactive and not waiting until it gets this bad. Butch touched on the issue with the railroads and it was a very productive meeting actually and it was something that we actually went there more to talk about flood protection and Biggert waters but we had a list of other items and the railroad was one and we got a very good response and I believe we are going to see some movement on that really quickly that will help with some of those items in here but it looks like just at first glance through most of this that this can be handled in house. This is not a capital project. This is something that we can take care of with some preventative maintenance and we are definitely going to make sure that this happens and I do appreciate you coming out and we will follow up through Councilmen Wilson and Gauff with your group to let you know the progress of that."

Ranney Wilson - Ronnie Gaines - grass cutting

This item was removed from the agenda.

Jaclyn Hotard - Appointment of L'Observateur as the Official Journal for the Parish

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to appoint the L'Observateur as the Official Journal for the Parish. The motion passed unanimously.

Larry Snyder - Garbage and Debris pick-up

Councilman Snyder stated, "I had a lot of things on this particular issue but I spent time speaking with the heads of Progressive and I was satisfied with the outcome. I got many complaints about why are they picking up this and not that? Why is this being picked up and I have to compliment because whenever I call and I have an issue they always manage to get out there and help us out and Brian I have to thank you for that. In all of the discussions that I had today, it kind of seems like we need to get some dialogue between the administration and our contracts that we have so that everybody knows exactly what page we are on with this garbage thing because we are coming out of the hurricane where DRC is no longer with us and who picks up this and who picks up that are we supposed to pick up bags and if we have an issue, especially back in my district because people are still cleaning up, we are still getting piles back there so I would like to put this in the form of a motion that we direct our administration and Progressive to get together and come up with a strategy to be sure that the garbage is picked up and any debris put out there is picked up and construction debris is picked up now if that means that we have to go back to P&Z to get them to start doing some things over there when they go to get the permits to do work fine I don't have a problem with that but we need to do something so that people can get their garbage picked up and if we have construction debris it needs to be picked up. I don't know who is supposed to do it. I understand the contractor is supposed to do it but if I am doing it myself what am I going to do with it. I am going to put it out by the end of the road and wait for someone to come pick it

up but the first guy that gets there says no that is new construction so I don't pick it up. Somebody has to pick it up. So this is the motion and I would like to get a second on it that we direct our administration to get with Progressive and come up with a game plan on how we are going to pick up this debris and we already have control of our in house people picking up some of the debris as it is but the residents need to get on board with their people and let's come up with a plan that is my motion."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I think it all falls under keeping the parish beautiful. We are trying to clean up and beautify everything. There is garbage everywhere. A lot of people are putting their trash maybe they don't understand that they can put it in the can but they are putting it on the lawn like it is new construction, old debris, they are tearing down things. We are really not responsible for all of this debris but folks think that we still have contractors that are driving around picking up debris. So if you drive through a lot of the parish you see piles of construction debris sitting on the end of their driveway so I think we do need to sit down and have a discussion on what is allowable and not allowable and what we are going to pick up and what we are not going to pick up. We used to have certain days that sofa's and different things like that would be picked up and I don't see it being picked up now so maybe there is a gray area in the contract or maybe we need to sit at the table again to discuss what is going to be picked up and not going to be picked up. I think that is a good motion."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I also want to say that a lot of times people don't realize when they put things out there is not a little watch dog who is making sure what is in your driveway you have to be a little proactive and make the phone that I have put something out that I do need this picked up. I know it also gets very confusing in who do I call to have what picked up and I think that is where Mr. Snyder's motion is going to come in give us a plan this picks up on this day, this picks up on this day and I know with all of the stuff that has been going on because of Isaac no one really knows and we have been off kilter with our normal schedules and I agree that I think this motion would put the two parties together or this team together and come up with a solution so that we can say okay you call this number for this or this number for this and then the residents are informed so I agree with you Mr. Snyder in that respect."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We will be happy to continue those discussions just another piece that I think is missing and you guys need to be on board with us as well. The contract is very specific with Progressive in terms of what they pick up. The construction debris that we are being reimbursed at 75% is very clear on what we will be reimbursed for. We as a parish could pick up everything however there is a cost and a charge for that we will not be reimbursed for. So if we elect as a parish to pick up everything then we have to identify the funds. Progressive will pick up anything that you direct them to but they will charge us. In their contract there is a line item and what happens outside of a storm they may be called out they pick it up, they take pictures and then they bill us and so that doesn't go anywhere else it comes to us. So again I welcome that discussion. I do think their contract is very clear. We have made it very clear what Public Works picks up but you are right there is new construction that nobody

is reimbursed for and you are right Mr. Snyder we have talked about this several times if you have a contractor it is the contractor's responsibility however there are people who are doing it themselves and if you are utilizing insurance money you are responsible for it but if this council elects to have us pick up everything we have to identify some money. If we direct Progressive to pick up everything out there we are going to have to identify a funding source. Fortunately when our folks are picking it up it is being monitored and we are getting some reimbursement because they do it on their off days but if we just start picking up everything then our land field cost start going up, our collection cost go up and they will do it but they will charge us. We can take a look at those bills and we want it clean which is why we are still picking it up which is why we have our staff going on their days off trying to get the rest of it up. We just have to identify how we are going to pay for it because it is not going to be reimbursable by 75% just keep in mind we are not getting 100% of anything that we are doing right now it is 75% so we are still as a parish having to pay that difference so I think all of us need to sit down and discuss that. We asked them to look at their bills from the past to see what the difference is and what the cost was and once we know that we can make that decision."

Councilman Snyder stated, "It always comes down to money now we find money for other things but we need to find some money then. We can find money for many other things but we can't find money for this. We need to find some money because the garbage has to be picked up. I don't care how you spread it across the bread the garbage has to be picked up no matter who it is. I have seen trucks with nothing in them on the streets yet people have garbage that has been sitting out for a month that is the kind of things I have been looking at. I talked with these people today and these guys want to get out there and do the job. We can change the contractor next time but we need to do something now. There are people who are doing just their bathrooms and you are saying they need to get a dumpster for 3 walls of sheetrock from a bathroom. We are trying to get out of this meeting with nothing resolved."

Natalie Robottom stated, "That is not what I said. We actually have a site behind the building where they can dump. All I said was that we can have them pick up everything let's just decide how we are going to pay for it. I didn't say we didn't have to. I didn't say we didn't have the money. I just said the discussion needs to be between all of us not just us."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Then come back with a recommendation of where we can get some money to do that and we will look at it, let that be part of your discussion."

Natalie Robottom stated, "As I said the discussion needs to be between all of us and we can pull the costs, the estimated cost and we will present it to you."

Councilman Wilson stated, "We have a dump back here but it isn't open on weekends."

Brian Nunes stated, "It is opened on Saturdays."

Councilman Madere stated, "I agree with my fellow council members we

have to pick it up and whatever the cost is you can come back with a recommendation we just have to find the source to pick it up. We all came from a disaster and some people are just getting started in putting things out and I know in a perfect world everyone would do what they were supposed to do as far as putting the dumpsters out, some people cannot afford dumpsters and they are just barely making it so they are trying to repair their home and put it to the road and I think this council needs to do as much as we can to help and assist these people in this time so if that calls for us to spend a little more money to pick up the trash to clean the parish up I think it is a win/win both ways. There is no reason to have a clean sweep if we can't help these people."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "One thing I would like to add is that a lot of people just don't know. They gutted out their homes and are still in the rebuilding process. I know I see in the neighborhood little piles that just start popping up and I don't think they really know when they put it at the end of the road who is coming to pick it up. So at the end of the day we still have to get the debris off of the street. No matter what the plan is it is still going to have to consist of us picking up debris so I really don't know I guess it is a good idea to meet and get the numbers and know what we have in front of us but no matter what the numbers say we still have to pick it up. So do you know how long it would take? Do you want to have a work shop?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "That is why I said all of us."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "That is what I just said is that all of us so that we can all get together and discuss it."

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to direct our administration to get with Progressive and come up with a game plan on how we are going to pick up this debris in the parish. The motion passed unanimously.

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R13-26 - A Resolution declaring that the State of Louisiana should fully fund disaster accounts for recovery efforts in the parishes that were declared a disaster area in 2012

Natalie Robottom stated, "This resolution was approved by the River Region Caucus last month and basically what they are suggesting is that the state utilize the funding that has been allocated to them to fund the disaster areas. That was all dictated by the federal law in terms of what percentage goes where and it is also dictated to what types of things that the funding will fund and it is economic development, infrastructure and housing and the law was very specific in the amount that would be coming to the parish. It is my understanding that St. John at a minimum would receive about 25 million from that and we just received notification that 11 million dollars in hazardous mitigation funds have been obligated to St. John Parish."

Councilman Snyder stated, "We just found the money."

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Resolution R13-26 - A Resolution declaring that the State of Louisiana should fully fund disaster accounts for recovery efforts in the parishes that were declared a disaster area in 2012.

WHEREAS, Gulf Coast states are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters such as hurricanes. Louisiana, being a Gulf Coast state, should pay particular attention to hurricanes. **WHEREAS**, states have separate funds to deal with non-recurring events, such as natural disasters. The State of Louisiana has such a fund, and in the past has used the fund to offset and/or use as a matching contribution to access federal funds for disaster recovery and clean up and mitigation. **WHEREAS**, the year 2012 was another year in Louisiana in which a federal disaster area was declared. **WHEREAS**, those impacted parishes are seeking state assistance to offset or match any federal requirement. Those parishes should be treated as other parishes were treated in federal disaster declared events. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**, do hereby enthusiastically and wholeheartedly request that the revenue estimating conference adequately fund the accounts in order to meet match obligations for federal recovery and clean-up funds. **BE IT, FURTHER, RESOLVED** that this resolution be sent to Governor Bobby Jindal, the State Legislature, Senator Troy E. Brown, Senator Jody Amedee, Senator Gary L. Smith, Jr., Representative Gregory A. Miller, Representative Randal L. Gaines, Representative Edward J. Price, Representative Eddie J. Lambert, Representative Clay Schexnayder, Representative John A. Berthelot, Representative Thomas P. Willmott. The motion passed unanimous.

Jobe' Boucvalt - Authorization to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between St. John the Baptist Parish and St. John the Baptist Parish School Board

Jobe' Boucvalt stated, *"This agreement clarifies the relationship between the school board and the parish for evacuation transportation services. The school board will provide busses and drivers during emergencies and disasters as a voluntary donation to the community. Additionally, the state has a contract for buses should additional ones be needed."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"Don't we have an agreement with the school board? Did we have an agreement with busses last year and didn't we have a problem getting drivers during the hurricane because they had problems also. What is guaranteed we have this time?"*

Jobe' Boucvalt stated, *"The agreement is for drivers and busses and the school board will identify the drivers and any shortfalls we will back fill from the state. The state is aware of any shortfalls we may have."*

Councilman Snyder asked, *"So we don't have any guarantees? Now if the drivers that are assigned to these busses are flooded then we won't have a bus. I am speaking from the perspective we were out there last time in busses rescuing people. I hope it isn't like that again but we couldn't find bus drivers and people were swimming out of water back there and we couldn't find bus drivers because they were flooding themselves. I am looking for a guarantee. I am glad Mrs. Robottom made the decision to look for people with CDL's and that was to get the busses and that is how we got people out of the swamps and I looked at this and I said what kind of guarantee do we have. It is nice on paper but will we have drivers."*

Randy Vincent stated, *"Mr. Snyder there is really no way that we can*

guarantee that the employees of the school board will be available because anything can happen but we can count on the state because they can draw from other parts of the state and other parts of our local region to back us up. Our first approach is to contract with your local school board and make sure that the drivers that are already employed are available for that particular function. Now one difference is that the school board is taking an additional step to prepare their drivers to be available and assist us in any way that they can. They didn't have a complete program for that last year especially because it was an incident that nobody prepared for. The final analysis is that the state will provide us with the extra drivers."

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between St. John the Baptist Parish and St. John the Baptist Parish School Board. The motion passed with 1 abstention (Hotard).

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Property/Casualty Insurance Agent - 1) Claims, any/all property, casualty, and Workman comp claims 2) Claims, procedures and disposition 3) Coverage's, any/all material changes

St. John the Baptist Parish vs. Roussel Welding and Metal Works, Inc., et al. Case No. 64187 Div. B

St. Paul Fire & Marine Insurance Company vs. St. John the Baptist Parish Council, Docket No. 12-1392 U.S. District Court

R. Bend Estates II, L.L.C. vs. St. John the Baptist Parish

Any and all pending legal matters

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:28 PM, Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Jaclyn Hotard
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary