

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JUNE 11th, 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, June 11th, 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, Cheryl Millet, Councilwoman, District VII, Art Smith, Councilman, District I, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B

ABSENT: Ranney Wilson

Councilman Perrilloux led the Prayer. Councilman Snyder led the Pledge.

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

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - "National Small Business Week June 17-21, 2013"

Mrs. Robottom read the proclamation for National Small Business Week.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes May 28th, 2013, Regular Meeting; Councilman Snyder appointment of Peggy Joseph to the EDC Board; Permit Approval - St. Hubert Church Festival - 7-4-13; Permit Approval - SJBP Independence Day Celebration along the River - East Bank and West Bank locations - Wednesday, July 3, 2013

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes May 28th, 2013, Regular Meeting; Councilman Snyder appointment of Peggy Joseph to the EDC Board; Permit Approval - St. Hubert Church Festival - 7-4-13; Permit Approval - SJBP Independence Day Celebration along the River - East Bank and West Bank locations - Wednesday, July 3, 2013. The motion passed with Councilman Wilson absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON 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)

The above ordinance was removed from the agenda.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

13-13 An ordinance introducing the annual budget for the Hurricane Isaac Fund and the Ike/Gustav CDBG Grant Fund for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2012.
(N. Robottom)

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 Gauff moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed with Councilman Wilson absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

There were no department/engineer reports tonight.

OLD BUSINESS:

Larry Snyder - Update on administration discussion with Progressive

Councilman Snyder stated, "I would like to hear from the administration."

Randy Vincent stated, "Mr. Vince Lucia and Mr. Frank Davis are gathering information relative to pre-storm and post-storm garbage and dumpster costs for comparison purposes. Once this information is collected and analyzed, a workshop to discuss future options will be scheduled with the council. Additionally, the parish website has been updated with the current schedule for garbage collection, the recycle yard and removal of vegetative and storm debris. A flyer is also being developed with this information for inclusion in future utility bills."

Councilman Snyder stated, "The reason why I put this on there was because I have had many complaints about just regular garbage pick-up and it seems like there is a gray area between Progressive and one of their sub-contractors and just what they are supposed to be picking up. That is why I asked at the last meeting that we talk to these people and come up with a solution and let's get on the same page now if that has been done or not this sounds good but did we clear the problem up? Did Progressive commit to anything and if they did what did they commit too as far as their responsibility to make sure that they are supposed to pick-up and not leave a couple of bags behind little things like that it may not seem as important to some people but to the people out there it is important to them and that is why I put it on the agenda because there is a breakdown some place and it seems like they have some people with our contractor that don't understand that we have a problem there with picking up all the garbage when it needs to be picked up. Now my understanding is that they have taken a truck off

line it is no longer in the parish. There is one truck to pick up all the garbage in the LaPlace area I think now I don't know how true that is but if there is I would like to know why because people are getting garbage picked up not on the day they are supposed to get it picked up but on the next day and these guys who are working on the trucks I have talked to them a few times and they are making more trips and they are leaving bags behind because they want to pick-up the cans and get that out of the way and that is where the issue is. Now at my house I had three bags and a can, all bagged after the weekend. They picked the can up but left the small black bags. I followed them with the bags in my truck and I asked can I throw this on the truck and they said well we are kind of loaded so I don't know well between the lines no you can't throw it on the truck so I asked why I couldn't put the garbage on the truck especially after a weekend because they pick-up extra stuff on the second pick-up day which is Thursday and in Cambridge I know for sure the weekend is Friday, Saturday and Sunday when most people do their barbequing so that is why I wanted this on the agenda. I don't know what you all discussed."

Randy Vincent stated, "This is our first step Mr. Snyder. We are making sure that we understand what tonnage has been in the past and what we have been picking up recently. We look at the tonnage numbers and then we can begin our conversation from there and begin to address those particular customer complaints that we have received in our office, that you have received and obviously experienced as a resident but the start of this process is going to be with the actual numbers because we have to evaluate what they have done in the past, what they are actually doing now and talk about issues like how many trucks did we have on the road today as opposed to in the past when you weren't picking up the tonnage that you were picking up six months ago or even pre-storm. So we will be addressing those issues and we have been collecting all of those complaints so we will know exactly what to address."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well good and at the same time I would just like to throw some flowers out there because when we do call these guys, I know George and Frank, they do respond but I think some of the people might be just a little overworked and they are leaving some garbage behind that they don't really think they have to pick-up. So that is where I am at with it."

Randy Vincent stated, "Once we have gone through this first stage then we will have a workshop and when Mr. Lucia and Mr. Frank Davis finish their part then we will be ready to move forward."

Councilman Madere stated, "I think it was about a month ago I spoke with Mr. Gauff about the issues with Progressive and Metro concerning the number of trucks that were on the route because I also had a complaint from a couple of people about the fact that their garbage wasn't picked up on the day it was supposed to be picked up and also that the area where they dumped the garbage at was closed before some of the other trucks could get there because they were running short and I wanted to find out and you said you are going to address that when you talk to them as to the amount of garbage they are picking up and the amount of trucks so if we had four or five and they cut one down well quite naturally that would put them behind and overflow some of the trucks that they are picking up so like Mr. Snyder is saying we

need to make sure that we look into this and make sure that they are doing it right and we are getting the full service. Also like he said Mr. Frank Davis and Mr. George Carter do respond when you call them. They will respond. Today I would like to compliment one of their drivers I didn't get his name I will probably see him tomorrow he came down one of the streets and I went over to talk to him because I wanted to make sure they were picking up everything. He actually picked up something that he wasn't scheduled to pick-up and I thought that was very good and nice of him because sometime they pass up items that they know they can pick up simply because of the fact that it wasn't on the sheet but he stopped and picked it up and hauled it away and actually cleared the entire street and I complimented him on that."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "One thing I would like to add since we are on the discussion of garbage pick-up. I did take a good ride through the district and I will say it is getting better of course we still have a little bit on the ground but if we could make a note to get the grappler truck for vegetative debris there is a lot in Cambridge especially from I would say St. Andrews to the back a lot of people are in that mode of trimming and pruning and that type of thing so if we could just take a sweep through there and get some of that off of the ground that would be great and I see Councilman Gauff wants to speak."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I would just like to make a comment also and usually Mr. Verdell and Mr. Brian Nunes they help a lot but once again that River Road area is one of those as Ms. Hotard said the debris as far as the trees if we could get just the truck to pass through there instead of me sending out ten work orders for all of the different homes if we could just get that truck to pass through there it would help out."

NEW BUSINESS:

Cheryl Millet - Sales Tax Holiday

Councilwoman Millet stated, "This is something we had passed last year and it has come to my attention that we need a little more teeth to it we have to bring it for legislative approval and I kind of put this on the agenda just to let the residents know that we will not be able to participate in the state sales tax holiday this year because we do need some more documentation in order to make this a passable thing so that is why it is on the agenda."

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R13-27 - A Resolution to accept 1 to 1.5 miles of LA DOTD roads in connection with the operation of the Reserve/Edgard Ferry

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think we have been involved in quite a few meetings. We entered into a road swap with DOTD in December to continue ferry operations from January to June. The ferry was not funded in the state budget however there are some potential opportunities for us to receive funding through another entity. We could not get that done by July 1st so what you are looking at and again you are getting this late because we just got it late. We have been on the phone with DOTD to try to get the value of the roads, the length of the roads in our parish what you have is a map all of the green are roads that the state would like to transfer to the parish. We are only accepting probably the

smaller ones. We accepted two previously. The three we are looking at are Elm Street, Hemlock and McReine which are identified differently within the resolution the value of all three is closer to \$600,000.00 but we need about \$400,000.00 for two months of ferry services which will get us from July 1st through September 1st and hopefully give us time to work with not only DOTD but the office of Community Development and the Governor's office to put some things in place to continue services. It is critical that we make this adoption to continue those services so we are asking that the council approve the resolution so we can forward it on to DOTD to keep the services operating at least through September allowing us time to continue to work on long term services."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "I have a quick question just for clarification because the resolution one of them says September 1st and the one that we just received says September 31st?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "It is September 1st."

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Resolution R13-27 - A resolution to memorialize the agreement regarding the Parish's participation in LA DOTD's road transfer program, and assumption of 1 to 1.5 miles of roads in connection with the operation of the Reserve/Edgard Ferry. **WHEREAS**, the St. John the Baptist Parish Council agrees to accept ownership of whatever rights the State of Louisiana, Department of Transportation and Development (the "Department"), may own in and to the following described property and agrees to accept all duties, obligations, and responsibilities for the operation, maintenance, and liabilities associated therewith, for its use as a parish road, subject to the conditions stated herein: State route LA 3223 in its entirety from its intersection with State route LA 61 proceeding south approximately 0.38 miles to its terminus at LA 44, State route LA 3224 in its entirety from its intersection with State route LA 61 proceeding south approximately 0.23 miles to its terminus at LA 44, State route LA 636-1 in its entirety from its intersection with State route LA 61 proceeding south approximately 0.74 miles to its terminus at LA 628 **WHEREAS**, the St. John the Baptist Parish Council and LA DOTD agrees to execute documents necessary to transfer the ownership, operation and maintenance of the aforesaid described property to the Parish which will provide a road transfer credit sufficient to fund the Edgard/Reserve ferry operations for two months (approximately \$400,000.00) **WHEREAS**, the St. John the Baptist Parish Council and LA DOTD agrees to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement by June 30, 2013 which will establish the responsibilities of the parties whereby Parish will pay DOTD the cost of the Edgard/Reserve ferry operations from July 1, 2013 until September 1, 2013. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the St. John the Baptist Parish Council shall accept ownership of whatever rights the Department may own in and to the aforesaid described property as a binding agreement between the State of Louisiana and the Parish of St. John, provided the State of Louisiana, Department of Transportation and Development, complies with the conditions stated herein within ten (10) years of the adoption of this Resolution. **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the St. John the Baptist Parish Council authorizes the Parish President to execute the documents necessary to transfer the aforesaid described property once the conditions of this agreement are met. The Resolution passed with

Councilman Wilson absent.

Larry Snyder - Resolution - R13-28 - A Resolution requesting the STATE OF LOUISIANA DOTD to immediately address all drainage ditches, drainage right-of-ways and/or drainage canals along and within all state maintained highway right-of-ways located within St. John the Baptist Parish, to ensure that the water is properly draining and flowing, free from debris, obstructions, tall grass, etc.

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Resolution R13-28 - A Resolution requesting the STATE OF LOUISIANA DOTD to immediately address all drainage ditches, drainage right-of-ways and/or drainage canals along and within all state maintained highway right-of-ways located within St. John the Baptist Parish, to ensure that the water is properly draining and flowing, free from debris, obstructions, tall grass, etc. **WHEREAS**, in an attempt to prepare for the height of hurricane season, to ensure proper drainage and to minimize potential flooding, the St. John the Baptist Parish Council implores the STATE OF LOUISIANA DOTD to immediately address all drainage ditches, drainage right of ways and/or drainage canals along and within all state maintained highway right of ways located within St. John the Baptist Parish, to ensure that the water is properly draining and flowing, free from debris, obstructions, tall grass, etc.; and **WHEREAS**, in the interest of public safety and welfare for all residents and businesses in St. John the Baptist Parish, the St. John the Baptist Parish Council deems it a necessity to have the proper maintenance of these drainage arteries addressed prior to the height of hurricane season; **NOW BE IT RESOLVED**, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council that it does hereby urge, implore and request the STATE OF LOUISIANA DOTD to immediately address all drainage ditches, drainage right of ways and/or drainage canals along and within all state maintained highway right of ways located within St. John the Baptist Parish, to ensure that the water is properly draining and flowing, free from debris, obstructions, tall grass, etc. in the interest of public safety and welfare. The motion passed with Councilman Wilson absent.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Randy Vincent stated, *"Good Evening - As we enter hurricane season, residents are encouraged to finalize their family preparations. Please review the 10 step plan on preparation located on the parish website and register to receive Emergency Notifications at sjbparish.com. This allows you to receive emergency information on your home phone, cell phone, or by email. Hurricane Preparedness brochures are being placed in utilities bills and can be located at all parish buildings and libraries. Brochures were also distributed to local churches. Hurricane Preparedness Meetings are being held this week at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12 at the West Bank Community Center in Edgard and Thursday, June 13 at the Main Library on Highway 51 in LaPlace. Meetings were already held in Garyville and Reserve. All residents are encouraged to attend a meeting to receive updated information regarding Hurricane Preparedness. The Parish continues to prepare, train and plan for hurricane season, recently inviting GOHSEP Director Kevin Davis and his staff to conduct a workshop for elected officials on emergency preparedness and management. Each participant was provided a binder of resource material as well. The National Weather Service will also*

provide information to emergency management staff to address changes in their forecasting this season. We continue to address the need for a hurricane protection levee and recently received a copy of a letter from Senator Mary Landrieu and Congressman Cedric Richmond submitted to the Office of Management and Budget in support of the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Project and requesting funding to complete the feasibility study in an expeditious manner. We are also continuing our fight against increase flood insurance rates. As a member of the coalition of Parish Presidents addressing the NFIP rate increases - I am happy to announce the House passed an amendment delaying implementation of Section 207 of Biggert Waters Act. It must also be approved by the Senate. Senators Vitter and Landrieu have both have offered amendments to address NFIP concerns. To date the National Homebuilders Association, National Association of Realtors, American Bankers Association, and American Bankers Insurance Association are in support of our efforts and those efforts of our Congressional delegation. Residents with questions about the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) can call 1-800-427-4661. The helpline operates from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Additional information is available at www.floodsmart.gov. Efforts to retain ferry services are ongoing, but not yet completed. We continue our work with DOTD to finalize a more permanent agreement. The road swap program allows an additional 2 months (July 1 through September 1) to work out an agreement. Please contact Senators Brown and Smith for assistance in this effort. The Parish President's office recently held its 3rd annual Academic Lunch to recognize our 2013 Valedictorians, Salutatorians, Principals and Teachers of the year, and outstanding support personnel for their achievements from the 2012-2013 school year. I'd like to thank all who attended to receive their certificate of achievement as well as the school board members and Superintendent Hebert Smith. St. John Parish joined St. James and St. Charles at the River Region Caucus Legislative Day last Tuesday at the State Capitol. Caucus day gives the tri-parishes an opportunity to network with legislatures from around the state and showcase what the region has to offer to Capitol visitors. We thank St. James Parish for hosting the event this year and look forward to next year's event. Healing Hands Staffing Healthcare Agency held the grand opening of their new facility located at 421 West Airline Hwy, Suite F in LaPlace. The agency has been working in St. John Parish since 2009 and recently relocated. The employees are dedicated to "providing professional care with a personal touch". Health care services are offered daily, weekly, monthly, or on a 24 hour basis. Healing Hands Staffing can be contacted at 985-651-4613 or at hhstaffing@hotmail.com. The office is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with answering services on Saturday and Sundays.

The Parks & Recreation Department kicked off the summer swimming season last week with the opening of the Parish public pools. The East bank pool at REGALA and the West Bank pool on Castle Dr. are open Tuesday through Thursday 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Friday 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Saturday and Sunday 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Hours are posted on the Parks & Recreation page on website. The Recreation Department is also working toward implementing the Ashley Kelley Swim Program again this year to provide free swimming lessons for Parish youth. More information about the program will be released once finalized. I would like to remind youth baseball parents that a schedule of games is posted on the Parks & Recreation page on website at www.sjbparish.com. They are preparing to move into all-stars. The 8th Annual St. John Parish Veterans

Luncheon will be Wednesday, July 3, at 11:00 a.m. at the Louisiana Army National Guard Readiness Center in Reserve. This year's luncheon will pay homage to St. John's deceased veterans and service members by featuring a video tribute at the luncheon and during the televised broadcast of the Independence Day Celebration. Video footage will be available for both sides of the river. Residents are asked to submit photos of local veterans and service members that passed away from January 2012 to the present. Black and white or color photos will be accepted, but high resolution digital files are preferred. Please include the veteran's name, rank and branch of the service with the photo and the name and contact information of the family member submitting the photo. The deadline for submitting photos is Wednesday, June 19 at 4:30 p.m. Photos may either be emailed to Paige Falgoust at p.falgoust@sjbparish.com or mailed to the St. John Communication's Department, 1801 W. Airline Hwy, LaPlace. The 13th Annual Independence Day Celebration and firework show will be held on the evening of July 3 on the grounds of the St. Peter Catholic Church, 1550 Highway 44, Reserve, LA and the St. John Courthouse, 2393 Louisiana 18, Edgard, LA at 6:00 p.m. The fireworks display will begin at 9:00 p.m. The East and West Bank events will be filmed and broadcast live on the government access channel (Channel 15) so residents can view from home. The Summer Food Service program is currently running Monday through Thursday until July 18 at **West St. John Elementary School, Garyville/Mt Airy Magnet School, East St. John Elementary, LaPlace Elementary School, 5th Ward Elementary School, Emily C. Watkins School, and New Wine Christian Center.** For more information or questions, please visit the Health & Human Service webpage or call 985-536-4955. Barriere Construction is currently making repairs to asphalt roads throughout the Parish. Although no road closures are anticipated, residents are reminded to please check website and social media for the road work schedule. Currently, the Public Works Department is collecting tree limbs and branches throughout the parish on Mondays through Thursdays and Hurricane Isaac-Related debris on Fridays and Saturdays. Residents should call or submit a work order for collection through the Public Works Department by calling 652-4815 Monday through Fridays 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. or through the Public Works webpage on the parish website. This ensures the request is properly documented and added to our pick-up list. Catholic Charities is continuing to provide case management services for Hurricane Isaac survivors. Please call 1-866-891-2210 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday for assistance."

COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Smith stated, "I would like to thank my wife and daughter and my family for taking care of me while I was ill and I am here to say that my health is great now. I am in full swing and ready to rock and roll."

Councilman Madere stated, "I would like to say Happy Father's Day to all of the fathers in the parish but also a special day to the ones in District III but also I want all the fathers to know that just because it is father's day that doesn't make you a father okay you have to learn to take care of what you make and those are the ones who really get to enjoy father's day when they get to see the fruit that they bear how they raised them and cared for them so if you are going to celebrate Father's Day actually earn the right to celebrate that day. I

would also like to wish my daughter a happy birthday tomorrow and I love her very dearly."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I would like to say Happy Father's Day to all the fathers in St. John Parish and I would also like to express my condolences to the Charles and Johnson family on the loss of their sister and wife. Please keep Kayla Bernard in your prayers and my dad."

Councilman Wright stated, "I just want to say well said Mr. Madere and I would like to wish a Happy Father's Day to not only my father but all the fathers in St. John Parish."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I would like to ditto all of that Mr. Madere. Anybody can be a father but it takes a special man to be a dad so Happy Daddy Day to all of the daddy's out there. I would like to congratulate President Robottom on the award that she got to be recognized as a true leader but she has a great staff and I would like to congratulate them also. Happy Birthday to my grandson Dicary."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Just one quick comment, I wish I could wish my dad Happy Father's Day but unfortunately he is no longer with us so I want you all to remember to enjoy the dad that you have because one day they will not be with you so make the day special and enjoy it with them. Happy Father's Day to all the dads."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I would like to ditto what you all said. A Happy Father's Day to my dad and to all the dads in St. John Parish. I would like to say thanks to Brian Nunes and Verdell, thanks for your support, you really help me out in my area. Mrs. Poche' keep up the good work, every time I call you even if you don't have the answer you get back with me and get whatever the residents are asking for so thank you and keep up the good work. I would be remised if I did not say thank you to Mr. Larry Soraparu, he has been fighting with us for this ferry, he has devoted his time and efforts, as far as I know he is not an elected official anywhere but he puts in as much time as anyone I know so I would like to say thank you very much Larry, he made it days when I couldn't make it and days when others couldn't make it Mr. Larry was there so I want everyone to know your time and dedication to St. John Parish and for fighting for the ferry thank you very much. Also congratulations to President Robottom you really do have a great staff this award is very big. Happy Father's Day to all the fathers in the parish."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would also like to wish everyone a Happy Father's Day. Like any little girl says my daddy is the best, but I know, we had beignets yesterday, and I just thank God every morning when I wake up I know that man was created to be my daddy. He is the wind beneath my wings. I just want to tell him Happy Father's Day and to all the fathers in the parish."

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

Parish Buildings - Security

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 7:55 PM, Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Madere seconded
the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Wilson absent.

/s/Jaclyn Hotard
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary