

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, July 13th, 2010
CHAIR RONNIE SMITH
VICE CHAIR CHERYL MILLET

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Rudolph S. Soroparu Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, July 13th, 2010, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: Jaclyn Hotard & Dale Wolfe

Councilman Julien led the Prayer. Councilwoman Usry led the Pledge.

Legal Counsels Tom Daley, Jeff Perilloux & Kerry Brown were present.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes June 22nd, 2010, Regular Meeting; Appointment of Richard Drexel to the Civil Service Board; Re-appointment of Sarah Tregre to the Civil Service Board

Councilman Lee stated, *"I would ask that we remove the items involving the civil service board and handle them separately. I have one question. I want to make sure we don't handle this improperly."*

Councilman Smith stated, *"So at this time we actually have a motion on the approval of the minutes from June 22nd, 2010, regular Meeting."*

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes June 22nd, 2010, Regular Meeting. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Wolfe absent.

Councilman Smith stated, *"At the request of Mr. Lee we are going to handle the appointment of Mr. Richard Drexel to the civil service board. Can I get a motion please?"*

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion for discussion.

Councilman Lee stated, *"Again I am just making sure that there is not an error here. It is not that often we appoint or re-appoint someone to the civil service board. First of all I want to thank these people for serving because it is a very difficult job. I think Mr. Drexel would be an excellent addition. I was curious as to the way it was done. I want to make sure that our attorney is satisfied that it was done properly."*

I received a letter sent to you Mr. Smith and Mrs. Robottom from a Shannon Templet and I would like to read it please. In accordance with the responsibility given me by the ordinances of St. John the Baptist Parish and upon the recommendation of Mr. Danny Sullivan of the Louisiana Civil Service League, I am pleased to appoint Mr. Richard Drexel of LaPlace to the St. John the Baptist Parish Civil Service Board effective immediately and it is signed by Mrs. Templet. I will yield to our administration here and also to our attorneys to make sure that this is the proper way of handling this. What I remember from the past and maybe we made errors in the past, was that the acceptance and appointment was actually made by the council. This sounds like it is being made by a Mrs. Templet, who I really don't know but I am sure she is with the State of Louisiana, Department of State Civil Service and upon the recommendation of Danny Sullivan of the Louisiana Civil Service League, who I really don't know, so I need some direction here from the administration to make sure we are handling this properly. Again, this is not an issue of Drexel. I know him. I think he would be an outstanding civil service board member because it is a tough job but I have never seen it done like this so I am looking for some wisdom from either the administration and I am looking for the okay from our attorney."

Jeff Perilloux, Parish Attorney, stated, "Mr. Lee I don't have the actual civil service guidelines in front of me in terms of the appointments and what not and the criteria involved however my recollection is that that would be a recommendation to the council and the council would then in fact vote to approve that individual based on the recommendation from that particular entity."

Councilman Lee stated, "That being my point, there are two issues here. There is a recommendation by someone I don't know and there is an appointment by someone I don't know. So I would just like to see that we get this right before we take action and really make a mistake. We are held responsible."

Jeff Perilloux stated, "Unless there is some sense of urgency, you could table that particular appointment tonight and let us make sure in fact that it is being done properly. I don't have it in front of me to be able to verify that for you tonight."

Councilman Lee asked, "Well then I would ask administration how important it is that we get this done? If it isn't then I would ask for a table just to make sure we are handling this properly."

Natalie Robottom stated, "You are correct. It should have been written in the form of a recommendation from the civil service director, the state civil service board as their appointment as comes the ones from the universities. So what we will do in the mean time is ask them to redraft that letter and we will bring it back before the council at the next meeting."

Councilman Lee asked, "So it was just an honest error?"

Stacey Cador, Director of Human Resources, stated, "The meeting was supposed to be held tomorrow but Bobbie Butler, the civil service administrator, recognized that council confirmation was necessary so she delayed the meeting until we can get these people confirmed."

Councilman Smith asked, "So we can do it two weeks from now?"

Stacey Cadour stated, "Yes Sir."

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to table the Appointment of Richard Drexel to the Civil Service Board. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Wolfe absent.

Councilman Smith stated, "The next item is the re-appointment of Mrs. Sarah Tregre to the civil service board."

Councilman Lee stated, "Again just to make sure we don't do something improperly this request is coming from Mrs. Tregre. Is this acceptable to follow the necessary civil service guidelines that the request comes from the sitting member or does this person have to be recommended by one of the universities or one of these parties. She has five years ago. My question is do we need a letter from them again? In this letter it says that the letter is from Mrs. Tregre. She is requesting that she be reinstated. My point is is that acceptable? If so great then I want her there. I just don't want to make a mistake."

Jeff Perilloux stated, "I think it would be a wise idea in my opinion to get a letter from LSU actually recommending her again either to be re-appointed or to continue in that same role."

Councilman Lee stated, "This is our civil service board. We have some controversial issues here. If we make a mistake here and seat people improperly and someone has a grievance against this governing body and they bring an attorney here and the first thing they look at is that we made a mistake. It is conceivable. We are dealing in an ugly legal climate right now people. You all know that. I just think it is something that we should be cautious on unless it creates a problem for the administration, I am working as your partner here not as an advisory. I just want to see that these two people are seated properly. I just stumbled on it when I read my book yesterday."

Councilman Smith asked, "Administration are you all going to contact LSU?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes we will take care of it."

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to table the re-appointment of Sarah Tregre to the civil service board. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Wolfe absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

10-18 (Tabled 06-08-10) An ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinances relative to Residential zoning. (C. Millet)

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I would like to leave this item tabled."

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

10-19 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 to provide for a change in polling place for Precinct 1-3. (H. Lewis)

10-20 An ordinance designating and establishing the compensation to be paid to dealers who collect sales and use taxes levied by the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana. (R. Smith)

10-21 An ordinance to revoke and set aside an unused portion of the Martin Street (formerly Seventh Street) right-of-way in favor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana and to provide for related matters. (N. Robottom)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Lee stated, *"At 6:00 PM this evening the finance committee met. We conducted the financial business of St. John the Baptist Parish. At this point I would ask for a motion from one of my fellow council members to ratify the actions taken by the finance committee."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to remove the recommendation for Code Enforcement from the table, approved to accept administration's recommendation for Code Enforcement, approved to grant administration authorization to advertise for the sale of the two (2) package sewer treatment plants, approved to grant administration authorization to execute an amendment to the contract with Environmental Engineering for design services at the Edgard water treatment plant, approved to to grant administration authorization to execute an amendment with Principal Engineering, Inc for the Greenwood Drive Bridge rehabilitation project, approved to grant administration authorization to execute an agreement with Principal Engineering for the water storage tank rehabilitation project., approved to grant authorization for the Parish President or designee to execute a grant application and accept funding from the Federal Aviation Administration for the preparation of an airport action plan for the St. John Airport, and approved to grant administration authorization to enter into an agreement with Rebowe & Associates to conduct a financial entrance audit for the current administration. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Wolfe absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

Councilman Wolfe was absent. His item will be carried over to the next agenda.

Dale Wolfe - SSA Consultants for the Presidential Advisory Committee (PAC)

Councilman Wolfe was absent. His item will be carried over to the next agenda.

Clifford Bailey/Associated Terminals – Investigation regarding loud noise from the River

Clifford Bailey, Director of Roads & Bridges, stated, "I have two representatives here from Associated Terminals to answer any questions about noise, along with dust on the river for the residents of St. John on the West Bank. I have Mr. Dave and Mr. Todd. They are here to answer any questions, but before they will give a little brief presentation of what they have done on the river so far."

David Fenley, President Associated Terminals, stated, "We are a company that operates on the Mississippi River. We transload cargos on and off of vessels, ships, warehouses, railroad cars and the like, we employ about 350 personnel to perform these services. First of all I would like to say that if any of our facilities or operations has caused anybody any nuisance in any way we are truly sorry. We have spent some time with the members of some of the community here and I feel that we now understand what is important to them and how they feel that some of our operations have maybe negatively affected them. We have instituted a lot of changes to eliminate that in the future."

Myrtle Bossier, 119 E. 8th Street, stated, "First of all I would like to thank Mr. Haston Lewis who put me on the agenda on the 11th of May and since then I want to thank Mrs. Robotom, Mr. Clifford Bailey and Mr. Jimmie Kendricks who followed up on the complaint immediately. So I really want to thank them for helping me with this problem and keeping me abreast of what was going on. I have noticed that since I was here on the 11th, the noise has been lower. We are seeing good results. So we are glad for that. I also haven't seen any dust or residue on vehicles. I did notice on June 19th and July 4th there was some loud banging noise and that was between the hours of 2:00 AM and 3:00 AM. I have a question as far as the noise ordinance. What does it mean between 10:00 PM and 7:00 AM? Does that refer to the vessels on the river? How does it relate to them? I still notice operation on the river."

David Fenley stated, "Obviously without specifically knowing that before this evening's meeting, I am not too sure if any of that is directly related to any of our operations which we can research that for you. What I would like everybody to know is we are located at 1342 on River Road in Reserve. We are an open door open book, I think most of the council members and certainly now most of the community has our numbers. Please call us if there is anything day or night that we can assist or investigate with you. I would also just like to say that we are here voluntarily. We are glad we were put on the agenda but there are some of these operations that we are in control of and some that we are not in control of and specifically we will be accountable for any and all of our operations but there are a lot of foreign vessels that come into the river. There are a lot of barges and boats and things that we may not necessarily be in control of. So if you have any examples please do not hesitate to call us and we will be right there to determine that. Thank you."

Hilary Bossier, stated, "I wanted to ask Mr. Fenley, he said they made a lot of changes and we would like to know what changes have been made. Do the other ships that belong to other people dock at that same location?"

David Fenley stated, "That specific site is scheduled by Associated Terminals. So any of the ocean going vessels that come into that facility are our vessels. The changes that we have made I think one of the comments the last time was the loud speakers, that people were using their loud speakers on the equipment. We have since disconnected and eliminated all of those systems on our fleet of floating equipment and then we also have spent a lot of time trying to determine what vessels over a which period time that we can either move to another location which ones we are in control of and which ones we are not. So those specifically the ones that were causing concern from the noise point of view I think Mrs. Myrtle you had mentioned that in the last thirty days that we had made a significant difference in the noise. So we certainly appreciate that opportunity and feel like we are on the right track."

Councilman Lewis asked, "Who is checking when the boats come in and out?"

David Fenley stated, "Specifically within our company Todd's group and our operations people are responsible for any of our activities. So anything to do with the trans loading of the vessel we are accountable for and responsible for."

Councilman Lewis stated, "I was trying to just prevent it before it happened because if nobody is there watching them then nobody is there to tell them anything another ship comes in the same thing is going to happen."

David Fenley stated, "We are responsible and accountable Mr. Haston for all of our people and the operations and any nuisance that they would cause. So in house we are taking full responsibility for that sir."

Hilary Bossier stated, "I have one more question. How do we know what is being loaded? Is there anyway that we can get information on what is being loaded on those ships in our neighborhood?"

David Fenley stated, "We again and as you have come to our office in the past we would invite you again at anytime. You can come there we know what is on every vessel, what it is, its handling techniques and its characteristics. So we have that information at our office and you are more than welcome to come and see."

Councilman Julien asked, "I was just wondering if there is a number that residents can report vessels that you all may not be in control of in the area of Reserve/Edgard area. Is there a number or a certain time that they have to report these vessels?"

David Fenley stated, "Not specifically sir. Vessels that are in our control obviously we are twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week accessible at our office numbers and certainly cell phones that many people have. The vessels that we are not in control of register with the Coast Guard as they enter the Mississippi River and then they go to the location which they are to load or unload at. I personally at this moment don't know of any number that you can call but again and I think Mr. Haston would agree if there is any way that we can help if it is our vessel or not we are more than willing to at least guide and point people in the right direction."

Councilman Julien asked, "Are there numbers on the side of the vessels to identify them so that if someone were to walk to the levee and get that particular number and say this is a vessel that has been a nuisance and then report it?"

David Fenley stated, "It would not be a number sir it would be a name. The vessels have a name which would be quite visible and one could read it very easily."

Councilman Smith stated, "Mr. Julien I understand what your complaint is. One of the things that can be done is the Coast Guard can be contacted and advised because as Mr. Fenley said once those vessels come into the river they have to register with the Coast Guard and they would be able to make contract with that vessel and possibly handle anything that there is a problem with."

David Fenley stated, "That would definitely be the right route sir."

Hilary Bossier stated, "He still didn't answer the question on the noise ordinance, the part that says about the load from seven until ten."

Councilman Smith stated, "You mean between ten and seven. Does it say that they are not supposed to load or does it say that there is a noise ordinance?"

Hilary Bossier stated, "That is what I want to know."

Councilman Smith stated, "I think that is a question for our attorney, not for Mr. Fenley. I just spoke to Mr. Perilloux and he said that he is going to look into it to see if there is anything that can be done about that situation from a legal aspect."

OLD BUSINESS:

Stacey Cador - Employee Handbook

Stacey Cador stated, "We are seeking authorization to have the handbook adopted by the council."

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion adopt the Employee Handbook. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Wolfe absent.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cheryl Millet - Comcast audio for broadcast of Council meetings

Councilwoman Millet stated, "We have had quite a few complaints and comments from residents that the audio on our council meetings is very staticky. I am checking with Mr. Marino, has that matter been remedied?"

Richard Marino, Lamar Video, stated, "Yes mam."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Thank you very much."

Marie Brown-Mercadel – R10-29 – A Resolution for the Louisiana Recovery Authority for Hurricanes Gustav and Ike recovery funds

Marie Brown-Mercadel, CAO, stated, "We wanted to add the Foxwood Levee Project to the list of the existing projects that had been funded or will be funded by the Louisiana Recovery Authority. We have some additional funds left because the hardening of the proposed new complex was not approved so that left about one million dollars to be allocated for the Foxwood Levee construction. We had a public hearing on June 26th and we had several residents from the development attend and ask questions. Shread Kuyrkendall was there as well as the LRA to answer those questions so now we just need to move forward with the approval from the council."

Councilman Smith asked, "Where did you say those funds were coming from?"

Marie Brown Mercadel stated, "The Louisiana Recovery Authority."

Councilman Smith stated, "Okay, that's what I wanted to know."

Councilman Julien asked, "I'm a little bit late on this but could those funds have gone in other places or did we have to use the funds in the Foxwood area or on a certain type of project?"

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "There were several alternate projects that were proposed but some of them were not approved due to funding limitations. So when we could no longer do the hardening of the new proposed complex this was the project that was chosen instead."

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve Resolution R10-29. A Resolution for the Louisiana Recovery Authority for Hurricanes Gustav and Ike recovery funds. **WHEREAS**, the Louisiana Office of Community Development, Louisiana Recovery Authorities mission is to ensure that this State of Louisiana, battled by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008, rebuilds safer, smarter and stronger communities than before, and; **WHEREAS**, the Louisiana Recovery Authority has developed an Action plan to outline eligible activities to assist parishes to meet unmet housing, business, public service, public infrastructure and other needs incurred by the 2008 disasters, and; **WHEREAS**, the Louisiana Recovery Authority required as part of qualifying for this allocation, the adoption of the Plan including projects to be funded by the initial allocation and additional recovery projects that could be considered for funding in the future, and; **WHEREAS**, St. John the Baptist Parish has an amendment to the proposal to reflect the Foxwood Subdivision levee construction to the following list of projects as priorities: Land Use Phase IV, Peavine Boat Launch, Canal Cleaning, Generators, I&I manholes, housing mitigations. Each of these projects having extensive public input prior to adoption, the budget remains the same. **WHEREAS**, the Parish President is authorized to sign and submit the amended proposal and any amendments thereto within the state's proposal amendment process. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the St. John the Baptist Parish Council does hereby authorize the Parish President to execute any and all documents in connection with and application to the Louisiana Recovery Authority for \$6,984,655 toward projects that will support the

rebuilding of a safer, smarter, and stronger community. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Wolfe absent.

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I am sorry and I hate to interrupt you but this was something that I was supposed to ask during the committee reports and I failed to do so."

Councilman Smith stated, "Feel free mam."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Administration, a letter was sent out to the residents not too long ago concerning the quality of our water again. It was a very confusing letter and I got many comments from many residents. Could you please at this time just kind of explain what that letter was?"

Pat McTopy, CFO, stated, "Thanks for the opportunity to explain the letter. One of the reasons it is confusing is because the local governing bodies do not have the latitude to fully explain the nature of the violation. We are hamstrung by specific language that must be used and we can't change it to make it more understandable. So thanks for giving me the opportunity to explain what the public notification was about. Essentially the residents on the East Bank received a document similar to this a few weeks ago. It consists of a notice of a violation turbidity monitoring standards, not exceeding of turbidity levels but actually monitoring of turbidity. Turbidity is a measurement of the particular matter in water. We are required to test for this periodically. We are required to report the levels to the Department of Health & Hospitals. Back in January, we were required to change the sand filters and filter beds at the Lyons water plant. Filter beds are one of the treatment processes that is used to treat the water. Periodically those beds must be changed out. In January we changed the beds out. There was a period of time when the beds were being changed that we were not monitoring turbidity levels in beds D and E. We were however monitoring the treated water for turbidity as it left the plant at another location. At that location we never exceeded the standards. This notice that was sent out was a monitoring violation not an actual turbidity exceeding violation. People have been instructed that during periods when the filter beds are out they must take manual samples and report those findings. So are there any questions on the turbidity monitoring violation?"

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So basically we were cited the violation for not taking the testing at the proper times?"

Pat McTopy stated, "At the individual filter beds, yes. We did take a sampling as the finished water left the facility."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So it was not a violation of the water quality, it was a violation of the testing of the water?"

Pat McTopy stated, "Monitoring violation. The second violation as part of the public notice consisted of a violation of the maximum contaminate levels for trihalomethanes and haloed acids for the third and fourth quarter of 2009. The safe water drinking act has adopted maximum contaminate levels for these two. The maximum level for trihalamethanes is eighty parts per billion. The halaocetic acids are sixty parts per billion. Samples are taken once per quarter at six

sites on the East Bank. Those six sites are averaged to determine what the average is and four quarterly samples are used to determine compliance. For the third quarter we used the last quarter of 2008 and the first three quarters of 2009 and the average of those four quarters exceeded the eighty parts per billion in trihalomethanes. Seemingly for the fourth quarter of 2009 again the fourth quarter average exceeded that. The good news is now that the NANO filtration system is functioning and it has been functioning great since November of 2009. Those levels taken in the first quarter of 2010 and the second quarter of 2010 are significantly below the maximum contaminate levels. So without any failures or break downs in the system or any further lowering of the standards by the federal government, we should not be sending out these quarterly letters that the residents have been receiving for the last several years."

Councilman Julien asked, "When you say significantly lower. Could you put some numbers to it? The other thing is if we have these violations how does that affect us now? We are making progress. How are they affecting us now?"

Pat McTopy stated, "The council recognized years ago that there was an issue with trihalomethanes and haloacetic acid. As a result of that the NANO filtration system was selected as a preferred treatment option. Since it has been on line and working since November we have not exceeded the maximum contamination levels. To answer your question what the levels are today and I know the public wants to know. The maximum level for trihalomethanes is eighty parts per billion. The first quarter of 2010 on the East Bank the levels were sixty-three and fifty-nine for the second quarter, keep in mind the maximum is eighty, so we have achieved a record lower than the maximum. The maximum level for haloacetic acids is sixty. We were at thirty-four for the first quarter and thirty-three for the second quarter."

Councilman Smith stated, "I understand this process because I have sat here and researched this. Part of the reason we got that notice was because back in 2008 we didn't have the system online. We had no system. That is when the numbers were sky high and because you have to use the numbers from back then to get an average with the numbers that we have now, that is why we got those two violations because those numbers were so high. Once we come out of 2008 and get to the fourth quarter of 2009 you won't get anymore. You will be way below it."

Councilman Lewis asked, "How do you all determine knowing you get water from Ruddock and from the Mississippi River by Lyons, how you determine which water is which?"

Pat McTopy stated, "The problem isn't with the river water that the West Bank receives or the river water that is treated in Reserve and Garyville. The problem is historically with the Ruddock water and the NANO filtration system was designed to correct that and it has corrected that. In answer to the interphase there is a valving system in LaPlace that isolates the Lyons river water from the Ruddock Well water. That part of interphase on the Airline is in the vicinity of the hospital and on River Road it is in the vicinity of the DuPont Curve. So those systems are isolated at that point."

Councilman Smith asked, "I see that the statements were made that the

numbers on the East Bank were out of compliance. Just for the public, are all the numbers on the West Bank in compliance?"

Pat McTopy stated, "The West Bank, from my understanding and I believe it to be correct, the West Bank has never exceeded the levels for these two compounds. Again, I will give you the numbers for the West Bank for the first and second quarter, keeping in mind eighty parts per billion and sixty parts per billion. Trihalomethanes were sixty-three and the haloacetic acids were twelve for the first quarter. For the second quarter, sixty-three again and five."

Councilman Lewis stated, "I didn't want to ask you that Pat."

Councilman Smith stated, "Mr. McTopy just for public record, the only reason I made that statement was because the East Bank was mentioned and I wanted the people on the West Bank to know that their drinking water is safe also."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Thank you so much that really just kind of clarified it up. We spent money. We fixed the system and when people get it in the mail the first thing you hear is I thought you said you fixed it."

CORRESPONDANCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Julien stated, "I just wanted to let the people of district III know that we are cleaning the culverts and they are digging basically all over the parish. I want to commend administration for getting the job underway."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just have a couple of comments. First off I want to thank administration for the great fourth of July celebration that everyone had. I have heard nothing but positive things about it. I think it is a great thing that the parish does for the residents, on the positive side. On the negative side, I received something in the mail an advertisement for a public notice regarding a hearing. The hearing is going to be held on August 10th at our regular meeting however the council wasn't informed of this prior to it being published in the Times Picayune and I didn't know what it was when I had a question about it. So it is regarding the levee of the additional mileage but we were not told of this prior to it being put in the paper. I would appreciate, in the future that prior to a notification being published that we know something so when the question comes we can answer it."

Pat McTopy stated, "I agree good point. The parish is under very strict requirements in terms of the annual property tax ordinance and it requires very detailed public notices and notifications to the Assessor's Office, etc. and we are required to have that notice in the paper but you are right we could have contacted you in advance."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Just let us know so when we get the calls we can answer them."

Councilman Julien stated, "I am just trying to make sure that we are on the same page. Was this what we spoke about in the workshop?"

Pat McTopy stated, "Yes no action was taken. It is just a notice to the public."

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Natalie Robottom stated, "Again Mrs. Millet we are going to try to get you information as quickly as possible. I think what we attempted to do was send out a memo in advance of our workshops and in that memo was the description of the kinds of issues that would be discussed and we thought that covered the advertisement but clearly we needed to touch bases with you all before the advertisement hit the paper. Like you I would like to thank every one involved in both the Veteran's luncheon and the Independence Day celebration. It took a lot of people to put that on and what I can say is that my staff, as well as our volunteers, the Rotary Club, the Young Marines with our luncheon, RTC with filming, Judge Snowdy with helping with the filming and both East and West Bank all of our workers as well as I think Judge Jasmine hosted the West Bank celebration. It was a great event. We were fortunate enough to see both sides during the fireworks display and we are hoping to continue both of those events. They were very well received by all of our Veteran's and our residents. I would also like to remind everyone that this Thursday is the luncheon for the retired and senior volunteers program for the River Parishes. It is going to be held at 10:30 AM at the St. James Boat Club. I had the pleasure of signing it seemed like a thousand certificates so I think we are blessed to have as many senior and retired volunteers contributing to our efforts in the community. So I think it is important that we show our appreciation for them. I am expected to be out of town but I do plan to send a taped message and of course it would be very nice if some of you could attend that function. We would also like to congratulate our first recruiting class of the young marines. They graduated this Saturday. It was a wonderful event. It was very well attended. All twenty recruits who entered the program, graduated from the program. Now Lt. Bertrand as well as Cpt. Hoover did a wonderful job, along with their volunteers from the Sheriff's Office and as a parish government working with the Sheriff's Office I think it is something that we partnered with and will be very beneficial for us to continue that process. It is my understanding that they are planning on having two classes each year. They only had one this year but now that things are set up and established I think it is a wonderful opportunity and once they graduate they stay with us doing community service until they are eighteen. So congratulations to that first graduating class. St. John continues to partner with our neighboring parishes to deal with responses to the oil spills. I made a call to most of you. We haven't signed it yet but there will be a declared state of emergency that will allow us to work with St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Livingston, St. James, St. Charles, Orleans and Jefferson to provide a single point response for Lake Pontchartrain as well as Lake Maurepas as we have said we have an agreement with Jefferson and St. Charles for the West Bank and Lake Des Allemands. What we witnessed with Alex is what can happen to us when the winds change. So we need to be prepared for the possibility of oil invading Lake Pontchartrain of course and Lake Maurepas and this administration will continue to work and advise you on any of our meetings or updates with regards to our response time. I do want to acknowledge that the Borne Family is having their reunion this weekend. We didn't receive the information in time to have proclamations for tonight but we will prepare them for the ceremony. I would like to recognize Rose Borne, mom Alexander who is

ninety-three, the matriarch of the family. Ophelia Borne Baloney who is ninety and Joseph Borne who is deceased but was responsible for initiating their first family reunion. We wish them a very wonderful time and will be sure to get those proclamations to them for this weekend."

Councilman Julien asked, "I was just wondering if you all could come back to the next meeting and look into a complaint of the water facility on the West Bank and the guys working seven days, twelve hours or something like that. I was just wondering if you could look into it. I promised that I would ask about it."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Obviously that is something that we are looking at and I think our PAC will give us some information on how we can better utilize our personnel not specific individuals but scheduling with regard to what strengths and weaknesses and we will definitely take a look and discuss that with our Utility Department."

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

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

Cable Franchise Agreement

Any and all pending legal matters

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:19 PM, Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Wolfe absent.

/s/Ronnie Smith
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary

