

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2008  
CHAIR JACLYN HOTARD  
VICE CHAIR RONNIE SMITH

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, August 26, 2008, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ABSENT:** None

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

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, was present.

Legal Counsels Jeff Perilloux, Barry Landry and Kerry Brown were present.

**Ronnie Smith - Proclamation - River Parish Hawks Baseball Team won Sugar Cane League Championship**

Councilman Smith introduced the River Parish Hawks Baseball Team. They have won two out of the three last years of the Sugar Cane League Championship. He presented their coach, Mr. Alvin Brown, with a proclamation from the parish for his semi-pro baseball team's accomplishments. The Parish President and the Council extended their congratulations to the team and thanked them for the representation that they bring to the parish. Mr. Brown introduced his team and thanked the council and the parish president for this honor and for recognizing his team.

Councilman Julien stated, *"I want to again congratulate Mr. Brown and Gary Anderson for doing a great job. These guys are examples of what our parish recreation can do. Mr. Brown is an exceptional individual who is constantly working, picking players up and bringing players to practice and again we want to say thank you and keep up the good work."*

**Errol Manuel - Recognition of Louisiana Dizzy Dean 8 & 10 year old State Champions**

Errol Manuel, Director of Recreation, introduced the two baseball teams and their coaches. He commented that he would like us to recognize the St. John Warriors 8 & 10 year old Louisiana Dizzy Dean state champions.

Both teams participated in the Dizzy Dean World Series. The 8 year olds were in South Haven, Mississippi and the 10 year olds were in Woody, Alabama. They both represented St. John Parish very well. Each team coach introduced their teams and thanked them for all the time and effort that has been put into this season. The coaches presented Errol Manuel with the state championship award and with the Sportsmanship award for the Dizzy Dean World Series. He commented that there was no team from Louisiana that has ever been awarded this trophy since the inception of Dizzy Dean, so they are very proud of this. Mr. Manuel commented that he wanted to thank all of his coaches who volunteer their time. He commented that without these parents we would not have a program and to let the council know that there is recreation in St. John Parish.

Councilman Julien stated, *"To the players I would like to say that we are proud of you as a community. You all represented St. John Parish exceptionally well. To the parents I would like to say 'the race is not given to the swift nor to the strong, but he or she that endures it' so what you all need to do is keep up the fight. You are doing a good job. You are doing an excellent job with your children. We have to stay with our children and we have to encourage other parents in our communities to do the same thing. To the coaches I want to say you are doing an excellent job. You don't get paid for this. I know you catch a lot of flack - I know when we have these kinds of awards. I like to talk to the kids and to the coaches and to the families, I just want to say that we do appreciate you and coaches keep up the good work. Have a nice night."*

#### **Consent Agenda**

**Items:** Approval of Minutes August 12, 2008, Regular Meeting.

**MOTION:** Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes August 12, 2008, Regular Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**08-46** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to amend Section 28:3 B2 (water disconnection and re-Connection fees) of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances to read as follows: **SECTION 28:3B2 - The customer can only be reconnected after they have met their obligation to the utility company. If payment is received before 2:30 P.M. the service person will be called by radio to reconnect services that day. If payment is made after 2:30 P.M. services will be reconnected the following business day. To reconnect service, the service person will take the proper meter out of storage and replace it. He will then complete the work and return it to the Billing Department for processing.** (B. Hubbard)

**MOTION:** Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 08-46. The motion passed unanimously.

**08-47** (Public Hearing Held) That Section 2:3 of Sub-Chapter A, "In General" of Chapter 2 of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances is hereby amended so as to merge precincts 4-5, 4-6 and 4-8 into precinct 4-8 (J. Hotard)

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "The reason why we are merging the precincts here is because the law requires that if a precinct only has a certain or a few amount of voters, they have to be merged."

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 08-47. The motion passed unanimously.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**08-48** An ordinance for conditional approval of DV & D RV Park (formerly CNO) located on the Celestin Jacob Tract, Lot 1-30, Section 41 & 89, T-11-S, R-7-E, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana. (David Scioneaux - PZS-08-009) (B. Hubbard)

**08-49** An ordinance for a Family re-subdivision of Lot C-2-A formerly being a portion of Lots 12, 13, 14, & 15 of Hope Plantation Subdivision into lots herein designated as Lots C-2-A-1, C-2-A-2, C-2-A-3, C-2-A-4, C-2-A-5 of Hope Plantation Subdivision, Garyville St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana. (Richard Maus PZR-08-015) (B. Hubbard)

**08-50** An ordinance to provide a three percent (3%) increase for all hourly employees of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council. (D. Wolfe)

**08-51** An ordinance enacting the following changes to the pay plan as per the recommendation of the Civil Service Board on March 26, 2008:

- Create Grade 11 for Professional/Administrator classification
- Create Title of "Professional Administrator" Position in Grade 11 (B. Hubbard)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

**MOTION:** Councilman Smith moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to award the bid for the Animal Shelter to Aegis Construction in the amount of \$647,000.00, awarded bid for telecommunications to Blackbox in the amount of \$158,000.00, awarded bid for the electrical maintenance contract to Riverbend Electrical, LLC, and authorized administration to advertise for bids on sewer pumps. The motion passed unanimously.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

**Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters**

There were no personnel matters at this time.

**Jaclyn Hotard/Ronnie Smith/Montgomery Watson/GE - Report on the NANO filtration project**

Ray Rials, MWH, stated, "We remain on track. Everything is operating and automatic. A test sample was sent out to DHH today. We are

*anticipating with fingers crossed a positive return. If that is true we will be ready to get it on line and in operation within a day afterwards. We continue to work towards it and again it is contingent on receiving a positive result from DHH."*

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "How long does it take to get the results from DHH?"

Ray Rials stated, "Twenty-four hours."

Cade Gibson, GE, stated, "We can get an initial in eighteen hours. It would be like a pass or fail. So we are looking at about 10:00 tomorrow morning or a little bit later."

Ray Rials stated, "We have taps throughout each of the skids so that you can tell the water quality. The water coming in and going out and the stuff being pulled out of it."

Cade Gibson stated, "Just so that everyone knows the water coming out of our skids is better than Aquafina water. So your water coming out of the skids is actually 45% better than Aquafina bottled water."

There were two bottles of water passed around to see the difference in the water coming out. Councilwoman Millet sampled the water and commented that it tasted wonderful.

#### **Charles Julien - Complete/Incomplete work orders in District III**

Councilman Julien stated, "I am wondering if administration can tell me what the quick response crew is."

Pat McTopy, CAO, stated, "We have found over the years and the months that we tried to schedule and plan for the next day and in fact years ago even a week out the work that we would try to accomplish. Historically it was hard to do that because emergencies would pop up. Councilmen might call about something that has to be done, something that maybe has been on the back burner for too long and we would have to alter the work schedule to accommodate that. Or a citizen might call and has been calling for a long time in some cases and we would have to stop what we are doing, getting away from the daily schedule or even the weekly schedule and go do it. What we are going to do with the quick response crew that would be a group of people three to four that will be available to take care of critical or emergency things. Things that the councilman might need to get done in their district. You might have a drainage ditch that is blocked, someone called last week about a piece of plywood in the ditch and we sent someone out the next day, so those types of issues."

Councilman Julien stated, "I am clear on that."

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, stated, "Since this item has been on the agenda for the last several months and I know this information is available to you in your office Mr. Julien. I just wanted to go ahead and give you a public update. In your district, which is District III, there has been 279 work orders total since January to August 22<sup>nd</sup> and out of the 279, 53 are incomplete."

Councilman Julien stated, "That may be 279, we may have 53 now. I am not trying to attack administration on this but there may be other work orders that have not been completed prior to those 279 that you are talking about, but we will talk about it another time."

Bill Hubbard stated, "Mr. Julien just for everybody's information. When I was first sworn in there were work orders that went back to 2005. So I feel like we are doing a pretty good job with catching up. With the quick response crew, hopefully the prioritized work orders that are sort of mini-emergencies that we can handle those pretty quickly. I am satisfied."

Julia Remondet, Director of EDC, stated, "I just wanted to remind everyone that the festival season is rolling around and the Andouille Festival will be October 17, 18 and 19<sup>th</sup>. The miss and teen pageants will be held Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at the St. John Theatre in Reserve and the pageant is for 7:00 PM, tickets can be purchased next week at the rehearsals. If anyone needs any information they can call my office at 985-652-9569, ext. 217. Our baby pageants will be held in conjunction with the festival itself."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "What day will the baby pageants be held?"

Julia Remondet stated, "It will be Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>."

Councilman Smith asked, "What is the deadline for contestants to enter?"

Julie Remondet stated, "We will take contestants till Tuesday for the miss and teen. We will be making announcements for the baby pageants a little later."

Councilman Wolfe asked, "Mrs. Cador I have in hand the agenda from the Civil Service meeting. It states that the 2% across the board increase for all hourly employees and it says effective 8-1-08. The reason I am asking this is because I am introducing an ordinance here tonight that would increase it from 2% to 5% - a 3% ordinance and I would like for my ordinance to have the same effective date as the one that Bill just had passed."

Stacey Cador, Director of Human Resources, stated, "Actually the ordinance that was passed by the council didn't show an effective date so they were processed with the last pay periods pay roll, effective 8-11-08. So the employees will receive the increases on their checks this Thursday."

Councilman Wolfe asked, "So that is incorrect 8-1-08, it wasn't passed that way."

Stacey Cador stated, "No sir it was not."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Okay, I will just have mine to include 8-11-08."

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Dale Wolfe - (Carry Over 8-12-08) Override Planning and Zoning -**

**Trailer Placement - Charlie Roussel - E. 26<sup>th</sup> Street - Reserve**

Councilman Wolfe stated, "At our last meeting we put administration and the public on notice that we intended to override planning and zoning. I just wanted that explained and my motion is to override planning and zoning."

**MOTION:** Councilman Wolfe moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to override Planning and Zoning and grant a trailer Placement permit to Charlie Roussel - E. 26<sup>th</sup> Street - Reserve. The motion passed with 7 yeas, 1 nea (Cheryl Millet) and 1 abstaining (Hotard).

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Paul Oncale - LNO - BTA Oil Producers - A letter of no objection for a proposed drill site/test well for oil & gas at Goldmine Plantation in Edgard, LA Section 008, T-12-S; R-19-E, St. John the Baptist Parish.**

Paul Oncale, Director of Public Safety, stated, "BTA Oil producers have already been approved to do two drill sites in Garyville. Now they are requesting a letter of no objection for another drill site at the Goldmine Plantation in Edgard. I reviewed their proposal along with parish engineer, Chuck Savoie and administration recommends that we grant them a letter of no objection."

**MOTION:** Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to grant a LNO, letter of no objection, for a proposed drill site/test well for oil & gas at Goldmine Plantation in Edgard, LA Section 008, T-12-S; R-19-E, St. John the Baptist Parish to BTA Oil Producers. The motion passed unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS**

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just want to wish everybody a very safe and happy labor day and stay tuned for the storm that is out there. We don't know what the results are going to be, so just be aware."

Councilman Smith stated, "Basically the same as Mrs. Millet said. I would like everyone to please pay attention and prepare yourself for this hurricane. Don't wait till the last minute. Even though the hurricane may not come this way there is a likely chance that it can. So you really want to prepare yourself and get as much advance notice that we can that way we are not running into each other at the last minute trying to get supplies and stuff."

Councilman Julien stated, "We have a community protest that will be going on in front of St. John the Baptist Parish school system. We are protesting racial injustices in St. John the Baptist Parish. We have 13,890 registered African American voters, which is about 15% of the registered voter population and we will not be disrespected. Together we stand, divided we will fall. We will not tolerate unfair hiring practices. We will not tolerate harassment or beatings by police officers. We will not tolerate being targeted as second class citizens or treated as such. We are taxpayers and we should not have to live in fear. Together we stand and divided we will fall. From the East Bank to the West Bank, from Mt. Airy to LaPlace, according to Dr. Martin Luther King injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. This is not

a message of distention or a message of division, but a message of fairness and equality in St. John Parish and until there is fairness we will not vote for any bonds. We will not vote yes for mills. We will not vote for any taxes. If we don't get more cooperation as a community, we will go to Baton Rouge and protest there. If we don't get cooperation we will go to Washington, D.C. to the capital to protest there. Again we will be in front of St. John the Baptist Parish School System September 4<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 PM. Thank you."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "I would like to thank the people of Division A for putting up with me during my sick period. I am doing much better now. I will answer all phone calls like Fred DeFrancesch, I will return phone calls. For the people of Division A that had the patience to allow me to lie in my bed and try to recuperate, I appreciate it very much. It has been an experience. It gave me the opportunity to step back and see what has been going on in the parish. So far so good, not great, but good. I intend to start having meetings throughout my division with the district councilman. So many things are needed. I intend to keep administration busy and to work along with administration, hopefully to put the parish in good shape. I would ask the community to get together and try to keep our community clean and safe. We have a situation in District III, it is deplorable. We clean streets, the next week it is dirty again. I ask the people in the community to try and help out and keep our community clean and safe again. Again thanks for the phone calls from my friends. Thanks for the flowers from my friends. Keep praying for me and I appreciate it. Thank you."

#### **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

There were no presidential remarks.

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

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Employee Back Pay

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 Negotiations

Any and all pending legal matters.

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

There was no action taken as a result of the executive session.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:26 PM, Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the

motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Jaclyn Hotard  
COUNCIL CHAIR

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary