

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9th, 2011
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 Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, August 9th, 2011, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: None

Councilwoman Hotard led the Prayer and Councilwoman Usry led the Pledge.

Legal Counsels Kerry Brown, Tom Daley and Billy O'Regan were present.

Ronnie Smith/Terrence Mitchell – Presentation – (Carry Over 7-26-11)
Elevation Masters

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

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes July 26th, 2011, Regular Meeting

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes July 26th, 2011, Regular Meeting. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 abstaining (Lee).

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

11-18 (Carried Over 05/24/11) an ordinance to provide for sale of adjudicated properties. (N. Robotom)

The administration asks that this item be carried over again.

11-28 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval to further extend the Conditional approval of River Oaks Subdivision, Phase V, Lots 205-239, 245-252, 264-282, and Parcels H-11, H-13, C & D, for an additional twelve (12) months, located south of proposed Woodland Drive right-of-way, west of Vicknair Canal, east of St. Andrews Boulevard, and north of River Oaks Subdivision, Phases II and III in Sections 66 and 67, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the

Baptist Parish, Louisiana (N. Robottom)

Mike Henderson, Planning and Zoning, stated, *"The applicant is requesting an extension for twelve months on the conditional plat. It is actually for both of them, the two ordinances 11-28 and 11-29."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-28. The motion passed unanimously.

11-29 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval to further extend the valid period of time of Conditional Subdivision approval for an additional twelve (12) months for Belle Terre Commercial Subdivision, Phase I, Parcel A, Lots 1-13, Parcel B, Lots 1-22 & Parcel C, Lots 2-9; Phase 2, Parcel B, Lots 23-49 & Parcel C, Lots 10-44 & Phase 3, Parcel D, Lots 1-39, Parcel E, Lots 1-42, Parcel DS-2 & Parcel DS-3, situated in Sections 69 & 70, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (N. Robottom)

Mike Henderson stated, *"Again the applicant is requesting for a twelve month extension of this conditional plat on the commercial property on Belle Terre Boulevard."*

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-29. The motion passed unanimously.

11-30 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to re-subdivide a portion of a 32,000 + acre tract into LC-3 through LC-6, along Dutch Bayou, located in Section 3, T-10-S, R-6-E Southeastern Land District East of the Mississippi River, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZR-1012) (N. Robottom)

Mike Henderson stated, *"This is an ordinance to re-subdivide parts of a thirty-two thousand acre tract by landscape conservation group out of Madisonville. It is basically to allow some of the folks who are already located there in camps by water they will be able to purchase those individual fishing sites that are already occupied. I believe we have broken them down to basically approximately about 1 to 1 ½ acres for each site. Mr. Mullins with LLC is here to answer any questions that you might have."*

Raymond Mullins, McLin & Associates, stated, *"Just like Mr. Mike said we are just the entire 32,000 acres the people that already have a camp in the site we are just giving them opportunity to go ahead and take that out of the large piece of property so they will be able to purchase it and keep that for themselves."*

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-30. The motion passed unanimously.

11-31 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to re-subdivide a portion of a 32,000 + acre tract into a 1.005 Acre Tract along Hope Canal, located in Section 78, T-11-S, R-6-E Southeastern Land District East of the Mississippi River, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZR-1013) (N. Robottom)

Mike Henderson stated, *"Mr. Smith this is the exact same thing. We have five of these individuals. They are all the same."*

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-31. The motion passed unanimously.

11-32 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to re-subdivide a portion of a 32,000 + acre tract into LC-1 and LC-2 along Dutch Bayou, located in Section 3, T-10-S, R-6-E Southeastern Land District East of the Mississippi River, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZR-1014) (N. Robottom)

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-32. The motion passed unanimously.

11-33 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to re-subdivide a portion of a 32,000 + acre tract into a 1.071 Acre Tract along Hope Canal, located in Section 37, T-10-S, R-6-E Southeastern Land District East of the Mississippi River, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZR-1015) (N. Robottom)

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-33. The motion passed unanimously.

11-34 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval of the revocation of the right of way 29.3 feet wide designated as West 25th Street on a plan or sketch made by M.L. Donaldson, approved by A.S. Lasseigne, C.E. dated May 8, 1948 showing the subdivision of the property of Jules J. Haydel Sr. situated in Section 29, T-11-S, R-6-E, Garyville, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana; whereby that portion of the right-of-way of West 25th Street is no longer needed for a public purpose (N. Robottom)

Billy O'Regan, Legal Counsel, stated, *"We have reviewed this and determined this former street is no longer needed for public purposes and accordingly we ask for passage of the ordinance."*

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-34. The motion passed unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

There were no ordinances introduced at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Lee stated, *"The finance committee met at 5:45 this evening. We had a lengthy agenda. There were 11 financial items and decisions that had to be made on behalf of this council. I would ask at this time that one of my fellow council members make a motion to approve the actions taken by the council in the finance committee."*

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 abstaining (Lee).

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Ronnie Smith – Update on the Hurricane Protection Levee

Natalie Robottom stated, "I am just going to touch on a brief history. There was funding available through the bond project for this and we have entered into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Pontchartrain levee district for completion of the East St. John drainage study. The study will address drainage issues at the rear of River Forest Subdivision and recommendations will be made to improve those conditions in conjunction with the levee project and those expenditures will go towards the future levee. Mr. Steve Wilson, President Pontchartrain levee district, is actually out of town. Mr. Henry Picard with Burke-Klienpeter will address the subject as they are the contractor who is working on this project and who has been representing the parish on the project."

Henry Picard, Burke-Klienpeter, stated, "We have been involved with this project since 2004 and it has been a challenge. We are proud to say that we are making some progress. What I would like to touch base real quick on is the feasibility study that we are working on with the Corp right now. It is a 50/50 cost share between the federal government and the Pontchartrain levee district is the local sponsor. There are some intergovernmental agreements between St. John, St. Charles, etc. for the local share match for that work. Basically where we are right now is the Corp is taking down historical data, doing some analysis of projected flood heights from a 100 year hurricane event. What they are trying to do is develop projected elevations of water over the Interstate into the area of development based upon their model that they use for the entire region. They have got some preliminary numbers for that. They are reviewing them now. They are hoping to have those numbers finalized towards the fall. At that point we will take those levee water surface elevations and generate levee heights so that we can come up with an earth and levee design, a T-wall design and then do some cost estimation for the project. There are four current alignments right now. One kind of hugs the development area of St. John and ties in around Hope Canal. There is another alignment that runs along the Interstate West to Hope Canal and then ties back towards the river. There is a third alternate that kind of runs along the pipeline right-of-way and eliminates some of the wetlands also tying in to the Hope Canal area and then back towards the River. Then there is a 4th alternative that stays along the Interstate all the way up to Sorrento where it turns North and ties into the Marvin Breaux pump station levee up in Ascension Parish. Part of what we will be doing is with cost estimates and the environmental justification. We will be trying to eliminate some of the four alternates down to possibly one or two and then we will do a more detailed study of those alignments to determine which is the most cost effective from a cost and benefit ratio. We have to look at the mitigation of wetlands. We have to look at the number of structures protected etc. and as a team we will come up with a recommended alignment and then present that to the parishes and the levee district. The study is ongoing. We intend to have the alignments selected towards the end of 2012. At that point they can complete the study and prepare a report that will be sent to headquarters up in DC and the district over in Vicksburg in 2013. The goal is to have a chiefs report which recommends authorization of the project to congress in June of 2014. So it has been a long time coming but we do have a pretty good steady progress. It is going to take a little while longer but we are seeing some progress with the project. Mrs. Robottom

mentioned our little East St. John study in coordination with the Pontchartrain levee district what we are doing is we are looking at the drainage area of the upper guide levee going west towards US 51 and from the River up to Lake Pontchartrain. We are trying to find some alternative drainage outfalls to allow the River forced area to get some additional drainage out of that. We are just starting that study. We are in the process of building our model so there is not too much to update you on that but our goal is to have that study complete and to you and the Pontchartrain levee district before the end of this year."

Councilwoman Usry asked, "St. John Parish has met several times with the community and discussed having their input into it. Have all the other parishes done the same thing or are we going to be delayed until other parishes accomplish the same thing?"

Henry Picard stated, "The Corp has a very regimented public hearing process and we have been through that. We have had public hearings in St. John and in St. James. On request we have had public meetings for example with the Riverlands Association, with St. John, we have had several informal meetings with them but we are doing any meetings that people ask us to do we coordinate it through the council and the administration. The formal hearings that need to be done for the Corp report and study those have been completed. They were done last year."

Councilwoman Usry asked, "I mean we won't have to re-do all of the study work, that is what I want to know?"

Henry Picard stated, "No."

Councilwoman Usry asked, "So we are good. If it goes into Ascension will they have to have the same and will we have to wait until their study is complete?"

Henry Picard stated, "No. The part that is going into Ascension, if that alternative is selected, it is merely for the purpose of closing the levee. You have to end your levee at some type of closure point. They are not technically in the study area. They are not in part of the benefit and cost ratio calculations. However that jog from Sorrento up to the Breaux pump station will tie the levee off and it provides a closed loop which their levee extends on up into the northern part of Ascension Parish but they aren't officially part of the study. There is no need for public hearings there but on the down side we don't get benefits from anybody protected in Ascension Parish but it is a closure Lake fed rules. I can't explain anything further."

Councilwoman Usry stated, "I just wanted to make sure that what we have done has not been in vain and that we are progressing and we won't be penalized to re-do studies."

Henry Picard stated, "No. We have had a very good momentum in the last year. We are making very good progress. They have gone back and all the different alternatives they have looked at they are assimilating now as part of a draft report to send up to headquarters just as a technical review and all that data that has been collected in the past is being incorporated. So nothing has been wasted in that respect. As long as we follow our schedule, we have met all our public meetings that we need to have. We are moving on with the more technical issues now."

Jaclyn Hotard – Update on Foxwood drainage

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I had a conversation with our engineer today and I just would like to ask Rick Shread, Shread-Kuyrkendall, if you could just come and give us an update on the Foxwood Drainage Project."

Rick Shread, Shread-Kuyrkendall, stated, "This project, as all of you know, is to provide the Foxwood Subdivision protection from back water flooding and street flooding as a result of Lake Maurepas backing up. The design of the project is ongoing. The vast majority of it has been completed in terms of a preliminary design. There was one outstanding issue that dealt with a portion of levee that had to cross an adjoining property which involved some wetlands. We were able to obtain the necessary information in regards to a previous wetlands delineation that was completed on that property and as a result we have completed the survey work on that portion of the project and so we actually anticipate that we will be able to complete the design in the month of August for the project however there are a couple of outstanding issues. One being property acquisition in that the levee to be constructed will require either a servitude or right-of-way from the adjoining property owners of which there are two. In addition because there are wetlands involved in this project we will require a section 404 permit from the Corp of Engineers. At the present time we are investigating the possibility of piggy backing an existing permit that the adjoining property owner had for post development with the hopes being that we can possibly reduce the time period that would be required to get a permit from the Corp. However if that turns out not to be the case, then we have to go through the normal procedures to obtain a Corp permit which as you all know can be lengthy. In a nutshell that is the status of the project at this point. The design is essentially complete. It is just a matter of getting permits and servitudes."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "At what point will we know if we will be able to piggy back off of those permits or if we will have to apply?"

Rick Shread stated, "I would hope some time this month. To be honest with you it is just a matter of sitting down with DNR and the Corp of Engineers and making a determination as to whether or not they will allow us to do that."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Then what I will do is just follow up with you in about 30 days to see where we are. If not then we will have to go down the other road of obtaining the permits on our own."

Rick Shread stated, "That is exactly right."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you. I appreciate the update."

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ronnie Smith – River Region Caucus – 1 year term – 2 members, 2 alternates

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"I just wanted to make a comment. Since we have the upcoming elections it would seem silly to do this right now. It might be better to extend the existing representation until after the election and then appoint for a one year term. That is just my opinion."*

Councilman Smith stated, *"That isn't a bad idea."*

Councilman Lee stated, *"If you put that in a motion to assist Mr. Smith I will second it."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to keep the current members on the River Region Caucus until after the elections. Current members are Cheryl Millet & Ronnie Smith and Alternates – Steve Lee & Jaclyn Hotard. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDANCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Millet stated, *"I just want to thank the council for approving that drainage on 1st Street for me. I appreciate that. I would also like to let everyone know that this weekend we have the sugar queen pageant at the St. John Theatre."*

Councilman Julien stated, *"I would first like to send my condolences to Mike Carter's family who is arguably one of the greatest politicians that lived in St. John Parish. He is normally out in the audience. I just want to send his family condolences. The other thing is I did give my fellow council members a copy of an ordinance that I want you all to look over. I have spoken to Mr. Gauff about being on the committee and Mr. Smith for the DBE program. The purpose of the program is to identify and eliminate any barriers that may have any adverse impact on small disadvantaged business participation in all parish contracts or purchases. That is the purpose of it for the people that don't know. I would also like to find out from administration when they would be starting Homewood? Any dates maybe?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"They have a preconstruction meeting here tomorrow at 2:00 PM."*

Councilman Julien asked, *"Okay when we have something in my district if you could do it around 4:00 or 4:30. I know that is asking a lot but I don't get back home until that time from work. So I would appreciate if you could maybe just update me. Thank you."*

Councilwoman Usry stated, "I want to commend the administration for taking the time to do the RFP's on the grass cutting and janitorial services. After attending the workshop that you provided, I found that the parish may be paying grass cutters a whole lot more money than what the same people have bid for doing a job and I will give an example. If a grass cutter was getting paid \$300.00 to cut one area of grass and then he bid \$50.00 to do it that means we are overpaying someone \$250.00 and I think if we are going to save the parish money and do what is right we need to somehow get back to what the council had suggested from the start and maybe looking into ways we can save the parish money."

Councilman Smith stated, "I want to remind everyone that school is back in. So please pay extra attention on how we are driving because the kids are out early. We are getting ready to have Friday night football, college football on Saturdays and Who dat football on Sundays. So enjoy football season. Be careful and be safe."

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Natalie Robottom stated, "First I would like to remind everyone here as well as the residents that all the flags are being flown at half mass in memory of Commander Kelso and Chief Petty Officer Reeves who were killed in Afghanistan and of course all of the others who were killed also. I want to send my condolences as well to the Carter family. Mike was a main stay at the meetings. We frequently had dinner following at Chili's we are going to miss that. We are going to miss his honesty and openness and we are just glad for the times that he was here. As was mentioned earlier, school is back in session. We have received phone calls about people driving too fast in bus areas. So we do want to remind you to please leave earlier as there will be more traffic on the roads and to look out for our children and buses along the way because they will be stopping along some of the main strips and to just proceed with caution. The Greenwood Bridge did open. It opened for the first day of school. We want to thank all the engineers, contractors and my staff who went out on Saturday to make sure that it would be ready for opening. I received confirmation from the Superintendent that everything went well. We will be cutting the ribbon on that this Thursday at 11:00 AM. The administration has been working on and has completed the hurricane brochure. We want to let all of our residents know to look for them in your utility bill. We will also have additional copies at our libraries and in both court houses. We had our second hurricane preparedness meeting with our faith based organizations. It was again very well attended. We are scheduled to have another one on August 18th at 3:00 here in the chambers. In the interim we submitted forms to all of the representatives asking for their support and what they could provide generally after an event has occurred. They have also selected a couple of representatives to stay back and participate with EOC in making decisions in getting that information out to the rest of the faith based groups to keep them informed as to what is happening should they have to prepare to return to help us with food, clothing, possibly shelter or parking areas within their congregation or around their churches. We are going to encourage them before our next meeting to contact Paige Braud at 985-652-9569. They can pick up those documents or we can email them out. The group is growing. The word is spreading. I understand it was

discussed at one of the church services this weekend and we are encouraging everyone again to sign up for first call should there be an emergency we can get that information to you either on cell by text, your home phone or by email. We also celebrated the grand opening of Pizza Hut. It is now open at its new location on Belle Terre Blvd in LaPlace near PJ's. We were also fortunate enough to help local owner Melissa Roussel who just recently opened her new gift boutique at 191 Central Avenue in Reserve. A ribbon cutting will be held this Wednesday, August 10th at 9:00 AM. Her website is dashingirlz.com to view her merchandise. The ground breaking finally for the Mississippi River Multi-Use Trail Phase I will take place this Friday, August 12th at 11:00 AM. Phase I will begin there and go to Cardinal Street. We are looking forward to having that project completed. Rising Star Baptist Church will be holding a town hall meeting this Thursday at 7:00 PM. Local officials will be in attendance giving updates throughout the parish. They will also be available for questions and concerns. We will be holding our next brown bag lunch on August 26th at the Garyville Library. It is an opportunity for the residents to meet casually and discuss some of their concerns, get updates on some of the things that are being done and ask questions and make suggestions. The St. John Sugar Queen pageant is at 7:00 PM and admission is \$10.00. We want to wish all the teachers and students a happy new year and best of luck and we look forward to continuing our relationship with the Superintendent and schools and of course visiting all the schools. Thank you."

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

Cable Franchise Agreement

Any and all pending legal matters

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:11 PM, Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Ronnie Smith
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary