

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 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, September 23, 2008, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ABSENT:** Charles Julien, Councilman District III

Councilwoman Hotard asked that in lieu of the prayer that we take a moment of silence to remember two members of Councilman Wolfe's family who passed away. Mr. Reggie Lewis, who used to play for the New Orleans Saints, he passed away on September 10, 2008 and Deputy CJ Hall who passed away today.

Councilwoman Millet led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, was present.

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

**Board of Review**

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"For a period of fifteen (15) days, beginning August 15, 2008 and ending August 29, 2008, this board of review has been opened to receive any written or oral complaints from taxpayers who wish to protest their assessment as determined by the assessor. Complaining taxpayers must comply with act 705 of 1976 in order for the board of review to consider any protest. The board of review is now opened to consider any protest."*

*There were no written or oral complaints. Chairwoman Hotard closed public hearing.*

**Eric Skrmetta - Candidate for Public Service Commissioner District I**

Mr. Skrmetta was not present at this time.

**Ronnie Smith - Certificates**

Councilman Smith stated, *"What happened was a couple of weeks ago when Hurricane Ike came and the streets in the back of Cambridge started*

flooding. Mr. Michael Carter took it upon himself to grab some sand bags get in his truck and he started distributing these sand bags to local residents. He helped I am sure stop flooding and saved a lot of people's homes. I do have a certificate for Mr. Michael Carter. I would like to read it and I will present it to him in a second. This is presented to Michael Carter in recognition for your outstanding help during the floods of Hurricane Ike. Your unselfish commitment to improve the lives of every one in District VI of St. John the Baptist Parish was shown by your efforts during this devastating event. Without your help, many people would have lost valuable personal property. So Mr. Carter I would like to thank you personally for doing what you do. I am looking around the audience because Mr. Carter didn't do this by himself. A lot of times we say that we have kids that are no good. They are mischievous. They do this and that and it is quick to see when kids get in trouble. We are quick to plaster their names out there of how bad they are or they are not being raised right. Well there were four kids who unselfishly went to Mr. Carter and told Mr. Carter, 'Let us come help you because we need to do something to save our community.' I will read the four kids names off even though they are not here I will make sure that they get these certificates. The youngsters are Devon Williams, Wayne Davis, Joshua Davis and Brandon Tuco. I would like to thank all four of those gentlemen on behalf of not only myself and St. John the Baptist Parish but on behalf of the constituents of District VI. This is something that we don't see too often. I would really like to thank them for a job well done."

Michael Carter stated, "Thank you Councilman Smith. This is a total surprise. I called Councilman Smith and told him what I was doing and I told him about the young people. My reason for calling Councilman Smith to tell him about the young people too often, as he said, young people do not get the recognition when they do things good. I wanted to ensure that these young men who volunteered their services got the recognition for doing things that were good. They should be commended for it. There are some guys who have asked me about getting things started, just to help do things for the parish and some how we are going to start working together. There are about three or four of us I think that want to do things for the parish. We are going to start doing minor things and hopefully it can grow and will inspire other young people to get involved and to let us know as adults that young people really do want to help if we give them the opportunity. Thank you very much."

Councilman Smith stated, "Mr. Carter I want to thank you for that and any help that you might need with your plans, let me know you have my support 100%."

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, stated, "Just a personal note, I called Mike Carter several times during the storm and he was there. He said Bill where do you need me? What do you need me to do? I have sand bags ready. You know Cambridge, for the first time in such a long time that I can remember, did flood along with other neighborhoods. Mike thanks on behalf of the administration and from me, a personal friend of yours, thanks for being a good person."

**Eliana DeFrancesch - Address the Administration and the Council in appreciation for the generator's during the Hurricane**

Mrs. DeFrancesch could not be here tonight, this item will be carried

over to the next meeting.

**Consent Agenda**

**Items:** Approval of Minutes September 11, 2008, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Middendorf's Manchac Run/Walk - Saturday October 11, 2008 - 8:00 AM.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes September 11, 2008, Regular Meeting; Permit approval - Middendorf's Manchac Run/Walk - Saturday, October 11, 2008 - 8:00 AM. The motion passed with Councilman Julien absent.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**08-52** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to consider and take action with respect to Introducing an ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of \$4,560,000 of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2008, of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. (B. Hubbard)

Hugh Martin, Bond Attorney, stated, "As you will recall a couple of meetings ago we applied to the state bond commission for authority to issue these bonds. These bonds are being issued to refund two issues of bonds issued ten years ago in 1998. The bonds at that time had an average interest rate of about 4.75% and the idea was to issue new bonds at a lower interest rate just like refinancing your house, pay off the old bonds and end up with a lower interest rate. Therefore achieve a savings in your annual payments because your interest goes down. We solicited bids from various banks around the state who customarily are interested in buying this type of security. We received three bids and the lowest bid was from Hancock Bank. They bid a fixed rate of 3.59% plus an additional \$2,200.00 over the life of the bonds for servicing the bonds making the payments and so forth. They were by far the lowest bid received. So based upon those interest rates and take into account all of the expenses necessary to have the old bonds paid off, all the legal costs and payments to the bond commission, publication and all other costs, you would be able to achieve an interest savings of \$261,147.97. So we are very pleased with this result. At the time we made the estimate for you back several months ago we were hoping to achieve about a \$200,000.00 savings. Of course recently you all are aware of the turmoil in the bond market. We were somewhat apprehensive for a few days, but these are excellent bids. So, the ordinance that you consider tonight for adoption would issue the new bonds at the interest rate that we just read which is 3.59%. They would also award the bonds to Hancock Bank and provide for the call and the payment of the outstanding bonds. We would need a motion to amend the introduced ordinance to make those additions to it."

**MOTION:** Councilman Smith moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to approve amended Ordinance 08-52. The motion passed with Councilman Julien absent.

**08-53** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to provide that all parish employees, who have been employed by the Parish for ten (10) years or more, shall not be required to make any additional contributions

regarding health benefits available to the employees and their families, beyond that which is presently in effect, such that those employees who have ten (10) years or more employment with the Parish shall be allowed to have health insurance coverage for the employee and their families as per the present status quo as it pertains to the premiums presently fully paid by the Parish. This provision only applies to the premium and not to any required co-pays or deductibles as applicable. (C. Julien)

Councilman Smith stated, "*Councilman Julien couldn't be here tonight and he requested that I remove this ordinance from the agenda for him.*"

**MOTION:** Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to remove Ordinance 08-53 from the agenda. The motion passed with Councilman Julien absent.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**08-54** An ordinance for final acceptance of Azalea Gardens (formally known as Cypress Ventures), Lots 1 through 44, located off Highway 628, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana. (David Karr)(B. Hubbard)

**08-55** An ordinance for a re-subdivision of Lot 55, Annex B, River Road Terrace into lots herein designated as Lots 55A, 55B, 55C and 55D, Annex B, River Road situated in Section 28, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana. (M & H Heavy Equipment Rentals, Inc. - PZS-08-17)(B. Hubbard)

**08-56** An ordinance for a re-subdivision of Lot 1B of Farm Lot 19 of Woodland Plantation into lots herein designated as Lots 19-A & 19-B of Farm Lot 19 of Woodland Plantation situated in Section 64, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana. (Brand Entergy & Infrastructure Services - PZS-08-18) (B. Hubbard)

**08-57** An ordinance for a re-subdivision of Lot 9, Block A, LaPlace Business Park, Bert Street, into lots herein designated as Lots 9A & 9B situated in Section 38, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana. (Henry Seruntine, III - PZS-08-020) (B. Hubbard)

**08-58** An ordinance to authorize the quitclaim of a road and related property dedicated to St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana, in consideration of the granting of servitudes to the parish, and to provide for related matters. (D. Millet)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilwoman Millet stated, "*I would like to ask that the council accept the recommendation of the Insurance Committee.*"

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the Insurance Committee. The committee authorized administration to open the actual insurance proposals, for health and dental renewal, tomorrow morning (Wednesday, September 24, 2008) at 10:00 AM. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 2

abstaining (Lee, Hotard) and 1 absent (Julien).

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

**MOTION:** Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee. The committee authorized to take the one statement of qualifications from Premier Technology Group under advisement, authorized to take the two bids for the Carrollwood Drive Improvements Project under advisement, and authorized change order #1 in the amount of \$49,100.00 for the animal shelter. The motion passed with Councilman Julien absent.

**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**

Ralph Bean, Director of Utilities, stated, "I had requested via email to Montgomery Watson to be here with representatives tonight and GE as a matter of fact. The GE representative was not going to be available. The MWH rep was not sure that he was going to make it and obviously he isn't. What I asked them to do is to come back and get the system started again. We had some damage to our communications system due to the storm at our pumping sites that will prevent the system from operating automatically, in full automatic mode. We can certainly operate it manually. We need to check that system out manually to make sure that there were no problems due to the storm. I asked them to come down and do that..."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I don't mean any disrespect to you, but I just have to say that I think it is a shame that these people are not even here."

Ralph Bean stated, "I am not trying to excuse their absence. I am just telling you where we stand on it. I am not trying to defend them at all."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I know it is not your fault. My frustration is just that these people are not even here to even tell us anything. You are telling a story for them. They should be here to tell the story themselves."

Ralph Bean stated, "I am giving you what I know. Would you care to hear anything else or not?"

Councilman Smith stated, "I am fine with that Mr. Bean. Again like Ms. Hotard said it has nothing to do with you. My question to the administration and our attorneys is can I get another company to come in and finish this project? Obviously GE and MWH don't want to finish it. I need water going to my constituents. So I need to find out if I can hire someone else to do it."

Bill Hubbard stated, "Ronnie you know ever since all of us were sworn into office on January 14<sup>th</sup> we have been dealing with this. This project is probably a year and a half behind schedule now. We share your frustrations. Your question is can we, I would say probably yes, but I just don't think that is the proper move at this time since we are probably 97% complete. I just don't think it is the proper move. If we want to discuss this any further, I would suggest we put this on executive session because this is something that I am not going to say that we have discussed it but I am just going to say that we need to discuss this privately."

Councilman Smith stated, "Thank you sir, I would like to have that item put on executive session for the next meeting please."

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

Councilman Julien was absent, this will be carried over to the next agenda.

### **Cheryl Millet - Debris pick up**

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I know I don't stand alone in the complaints and the calls that we have gotten from residents regarding the debris pick up. My concern is that we have had so many conflicting confusing stories separate them, put them on the street, don't separate them, put them in a bag, don't put them in a bag. The leaves are everywhere. They are not picked up. The grass is now yellow because the leaves have been out there for so long. The company DRC, who are they? Are they the ones that left? Who is picking up the trash now? SWDI is not picking up the bags now unless you put them in the green container. The residents are frustrated. What is the story and where do we stand and when is this stuff going to be removed?"

Bill Hubbard stated, "Well the story is pretty much just like you have been told. If you have been hearing conflicting stories then you are talking to too many people..."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Not to interrupt you but I have your press releases that are all conflicting."

Bill Hubbard stated, "Really, can you share that with me?"

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Yes sir I have them right here. One day you say to put them out. The next day you say put them in. The next day you say to separate them.."

Bill Hubbard stated, "Cheryl, show me on paper what was being said because this is really not solving the problem."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "No it is not solving the problem. My question to you is when is the debris going to be removed? This is the problem that all of our constituents and all of our residents are experiencing right now. They are looking to the administration and to us to solve it."

Bill Hubbard stated, "Cheryl, as you know, I sent an email out to

everybody yesterday explaining what our situation was. I am not happy with the progress that we are making but there are other parameters involved with this whole thing. Right after Gustav we probably had twenty something crews on the ground rolling. Then Hurricane Ike came. Look this is just a big excuse really but let me just go through this process so that everybody has the real information. Hurricane Ike hit, which really didn't hurt us that much, but it went to Houston. Now if you go back to the Katrina/Rita days, Katrina/Rita was a huge storm, but it was a local storm. St. Bernard and New Orleans, everybody flocked right here to this part of the country. With Hurricane Gustav everybody was flocking here to help us out but Hurricane Ike hit Houston, Galveston, Baytown all of the crews that we had, twenty something crews, we don't have those crews anymore. Those little subcontractors they are going where the big dollars are. That is the bottom line. Now when is it going to be cleaned up? You know since we started having issues with what I call the first pass, we did the push. We had our local guys out there. That was probably done in three days. We did an excellent job with that. Then of course the weekend came and Hurricane Ike came. We started with the debris pick up with what they call the first pass. The first pass was going pretty good too but people left. Now since then what have we done is everything that I know how. I am open to suggestions just like when anybody ever calls me, I am open to suggestions. SWDI, I hired with four limb trucks extra. We have our two working and we have their four working. Now is that enough to make all of our residents happy? No but it is not enough to make me happy either. I like to get things done very quickly. You all know how I operate. We have opened a site at the Reserve Boat launch for drop off point. We have extended the dead line there. So if you have some guys that want to clean up their own yard, they have the means and abilities help us out, go bring it to the boat launch. We want you to because that will help us out. The leaves all over the place, I am not satisfied with that. I just spoke with the sheriff's representatives the other day. They are going to help us with the inmates go around rake up the piles of trash that are left in the roadways, bag it up and SWDI will start picking up the black bags. The black bags were supposed to be picked up by our debris contractor. That wasn't happening. So I called SWDI and told them I needed some help. They didn't move fast enough. So basically I said I want two additional trucks rolling throughout the parish to pick up nothing but bags of leaves. So that should have started today. I am open to suggestions. You want to sit here and scold me. Do what you have to do. Give me an idea. Let's just not complain about it. Let's be part of the solution. We know what the problem is. Help me out."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "We have our trucks out picking up the branches?"

Bill Hubbard stated, "Yes we do."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "My concern is, I actually watched one of these contractors that we actually paid sit there and scoop through all the leaves and strew them all over the street and all over the residents area. These residents take pride in their property. They cleaned it up, as per our instructions. The debris pick up came and destroyed it, as per whose instructions? I am trying to get the residents some type of answer. The calls are just coming in. The emails are coming in. I have copies of all of this, all pertaining to debris

*pick up."*

*Bill Hubbard stated, "Let's be honest with everybody Cheryl and I hate to cut you off. Let's tell them the truth. It is not getting done as quick as we would like it to, but we are going to get it done. Now as far as the big mess, yes, that is why I talked to the sheriff and we are doing what we can. We actually have a work force program now to where we are going to hire some people through the work force program and have them rake up the pile of leaves that are left by the debris contractors."*

*Councilwoman Millet stated, "I am not even worried about the leaves. One of my concerns is about the piles. I have a lady who can't even see to get out of her driveway because of the amount of limbs that are there, that have been there for three weeks. It is a safety concern."*

*Bill Hubbard stated, "Cheryl, what would you like me to do? I am here asking for your help. Give me some ideas."*

*Councilwoman Millet stated, "I asked several months ago about having another truck purchased for this parish in case we had problems. Nothing was ever done with it."*

*Bill Hubbard stated, "You sure did. That is a good point, but I don't plan the day to day business of the parish operations based upon what might happen with a hurricane. I personally would like to buy another limb truck to work day to day, but I am not going to buy fifty of them based on if a hurricane may or may not come. That is not going to happen. If you give me some kind of ideas, I really would like some more ideas. If they are good ideas I am going to employ them and put them into action. So like I said let's be honest with everybody. It is not happening as quickly as we would want it to. It is going to happen. We are just going to have to be patient. That is basically my answer."*

*Councilwoman Millet stated, "I appreciate your answer but it is just not good enough Mr. Hubbard."*

*Bill Hubbard stated, "Well then come up with a better idea Mrs. Millet."*

*Councilwoman Millet stated, "That is the administration's job."*

*Councilman Lewis stated, "I don't know who is going to pay to pick up the debris one way or the other, but I am running into the same problem that you are having with the debris on the highway that is not being picked up, plus trees all over peoples yards. I think what we need to do and I don't know if it is too late to do it or not, but we need to go ahead and take it over ourselves and find out what it cost for us to get dump trucks and for people to come in and get through with it. Instead of letting it drag out, do it ourselves. If FEMA is going to pay for it, they say in other parishes they are paying about 75% of it. I say let's hire trucks to go in there cut up the stuff and move it out. If they don't do it we are going to have to do it and pay for it ourselves anyways or get some our employees to cut it up and get the trees that are down and get a contractor with a big dump truck to haul it out and get through with it. Don't pass the buck on anybody, let's just do it."*

Councilman Smith stated, "Mr. Hubbard I do have a couple of ideas. I will talk to you about it after the meeting and they may help or they may not be helpful, but we will talk about it after the meeting. My only concern is that I am noticing also that the regular, second day pick up, that Metro and SWDI are supposed to be picking up, that stuff I am noticing is not getting picked up. Not just the green bags, other things that usually are picked up. Those things are not being picked up. I am thinking those things are not being picked up because SWDI and Metro are thinking that this is hurricane debris and that the debris companies are going to pick that up. Is there anyway possible that we can get a word out to both garbage companies and just advise them to pick that stuff up? I think it would start to make the neighborhoods look cleaner. I understand also that you are working with the sheriff, you are bringing the inmates in and all kind of stuff is being done to speed up the process as quickly as possible. We do appreciate that but just like Mrs. Millet and everybody else that is sitting here we are all getting tons of calls. I am sure you and your administration are also. Like I said I do have a couple of ideas, maybe we can talk after and see if we can make this work so that we can get this behind us."

Bill Hubbard stated, "Thank you Ronnie, I do appreciate that. I have been on the phone with SWDI and Metro so we should start seeing some progress there. They are going to start picking up those bags because they actually did think that the debris contractor was picking that up. Mr. Haston you brought up a good idea in what you just said. DOTD has a separate contract with somebody else. They are going to start tomorrow picking up the highways. Let me throw this out there. We have the council sitting up here. I could get on the phone tomorrow, call our local contractors up, just like we did after the first couple of days, who did an excellent job. I can get probably twenty dump trucks, fifteen rubber tire back hoes. Our local guys can go throughout the parish and pick this debris up. I don't think that it will be reimbursed by FEMA. I can probably clean the entire parish up within one week. Now rough numbers off the top of my head, I would say \$300,000.00 give or take a little bit, off the top of my head."

Councilman Smith stated, "That was part of my idea also Mr. Hubbard."

Bill Hubbard stated, "It is a good idea. If we want to take action on it, let's roll, let's do this."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Why would that not be reimbursed by FEMA?"

Bill Hubbard stated, "Because we have a pre-positioned contract that the council approved, with DRC. That is the proper way to do things. According to FEMA, they like to see us have pre-positioned contracts. Now some parishes, if you watch TV, I think Jefferson Parish just put their contract back out for bid because the contractor that they had was not performing. I am not saying that DRC is not performing, they are just not performing to the speed that we would like to see. I can put an emergency contract out for bid tomorrow."

Councilman Lewis stated, "I think what happened with DRC is that they low bided on that contract and I think they are walking away from it. I don't have any proof of that."

Bill Hubbard stated, "They are working for less money in Houston."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "I just think that administration and the council need to get together ASAP and decide what we need to do. If we need to call a special meeting to approve than we should do that, but sitting here talking about it now is not going to solve the problem. I just think that we need to get down to the nut cutting and do what we need to do. The folks are really raising hell."

Councilman Lee stated, "Just one comment and that is that I don't want to lose site and this council shouldn't lose site, neither should the administration. What we took action on some six months ago was the responsible approach. It was the pro-active approach. That is to be prepared in case a hurricane does come. The bottom line is that the companies that bid it are not performing up to our standards. So what we did was fiscally responsible number one and that is getting these "storm chasers" who are professionals at this job and supposedly can do it quicker and better and they are accepted by FEMA. They have to be accepted by FEMA. Number two to refresh the memories of some of my council members with Katrina which became a nightmare because we were in the middle of it, we were hiring some local contractors. We were requesting to use subs and the money was flowing through our bank accounts and then trying to collect from FEMA. What we did was very responsible. This was directly from FEMA to these storm chasers, to get our parish cleaned up. It was the cleanest way to do it. Meaning it didn't pass through our books, the authority that we had came through our parish president and his office. The bottom line is what Hubbard said a minute ago. These guys are not performing. Now Bill mentioned to me that Pat McTopy, our CAO, who is also an attorney and very well versed in contracts, was in the process of reviewing DNC's contract to see what action we may have and what action we may be able to take. I share the same frustrations everybody else does because each day I am out riding the streets and still looking at the same piles and it is a frustrating deal. I would like to take a good solid business approach and I appreciate what Dale says, let's look at what our options are, via that contract, and what we can do. The one thing that I did mention to Bill this morning and he agreed to do is that if we have to use our locals, we get together a good team. We make it a parish wide effort, but we make sure Jindel and our federal representatives hear our story and hear it clear and that is that this is a month later and the services are not being performed. Therefore often times when these things happened it is not designed to be reimbursed, but we have a good story to tell and that is that these services are not being delivered by DRC, who was the low bidder on the contract. I reiterate I believe that this council made the right move. It was a smart move. It is just that we have a contractor that is not living up to his end of the contract. Whenever you have that you have to go back to the contract. I believe that we are doing that now. We are looking to see what options we do have. I can assure you that I will be working with Mr. Hubbard. I hope that all other eight council members work with him because we are going to have to bite the bullet here. I have got to believe that and accept some additional responsibilities."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Steve see the people we represent really don't understand what we are talking about nor did they have knowledge as to what is going on. I just think it is very important that we get with administration and call Jindel, call our congressional delegation

*and come back to the people and let them know exactly what is going on because, we are taking a licking. People think we are not performing our jobs. I just think we need to get with administration and get it together."*

*Councilman Smith stated, "If I am not mistaken, don't we have a representative here from Mr. Vitter's office? Mr. Gordon we will be a lot better when you call Mr. Vitter and tell him we need help. Thank you sir."*

*Bill Hubbard stated, "You know we are talking about getting together with the administration. How about we come up with a plan, because I would like to help our locals out and get this wrapped up. I get the calls. My mom and dad, trust me I get the calls too. I would like to move with this. If we want to get together and do something with our locals, we can get this debris picked up really by this weekend it could be a wrap but if we wait for a special meeting and go through the process. Steve maybe you can help me with this. Can we just do a phone poll and say look this is what we are looking at doing? It is a state of emergency."*

*Councilman Lee stated, "I would dare to say, maybe we should take this into executive session. I think you may have the authority to do this, but the council - a phone poll is definitely not in order, but a special meeting is certainly to our advantage to do that because we are all suffering with this."*

*Bill Hubbard stated, "I would like to get the council on board as a courtesy. I just like to speak with the council members because a decision like this is involving the budgets and what not. I would like to get you all on board before I even pull the trigger. Jeff do I have the authority to pull the trigger on this?"*

*Jeff Perilloux, Legal Counsel, stated, "In a state of emergency, the Louisiana Homeland Security Act, which was adopted by the legislature sometime around the time of Katrina and amended there after, gives the parish president great discretion and authority in a time of emergency. In a nutshell there is no need to have a council meeting. If Mr. Hubbard, as the executive of this parish, determines that there is in fact a need to enter into these contracts for health, safety and welfare purposes in response to the emergency. It is not necessary that we have a special meeting. However, as Mr. Hubbard mentioned I think as a courtesy to have you guys on board with a plan that he would propose maybe for cohesive purposes the way to go. But from a legal stand point Mr. Hubbard has the authority while we are in a state of emergency, under the Louisiana Homeland Security Act, to actually go forward and enter into these contracts to deal with the emergency that we are in now."*

*Councilman Wolfe stated, "You shouldn't have told him that. I am just kidding Bill."*

*Bill Hubbard stated, "Just like I said, with a lot of the decisions that have been made during the storm, I always touch base with all the council members just to get your feel for it. I would do the same thing with that. Mr. Haston thanks for bringing that idea up."*

Councilman Lewis stated, "I think we need to make sure, I heard \$300,000.00 and I am not too happy with that to tell you the truth. I would like to assess it and document everything we do in terms of cleaning up so that in case FEMA comes around to paying it we would have some type of record so that we could try to get some of our money back."

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no new business.

**CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS**

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I was very remised at the last council meeting and we were offering kudos to the administration and to everyone else. I omitted and left off the sheriff's office. The patrol men, the officers left their families to take care of us. They were working twelve hour shift. They got absolutely no recognition from this council. I apologize for that because they surely deserved all the recognition for their hard work. I appreciate all the work that you all did for us."

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

There were no presidential remarks.

**MOTION:** Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to go into executive session. The motion passed with Councilman Julien absent.

**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:** Councilman Lee moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed with Councilman Julien absent.

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to accept our attorney's recommendation to give him the right to settle the case of the Fred Jones versus St. John the Baptist Parish lawsuit. The motion passes with 7 yeas, 1 abstaining (Cheryl Millet) and 1 absent (Julien).

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:48 PM, Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Julien absent.

/s/Jaclyn Hotard  
COUNCIL CHAIR

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary