

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH, 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, September 27th, 2011, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: None

Councilwoman Usry led the Prayer. Councilwoman Millet led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Billy O'Regan was present.

Natalie Robottom – Presentation – “Keys to the Parish” to the 2010 St. John Andouille Queens

Natalie Robottom, Parish President, introduced and presented the Keys to the Parish to the 2010 St. John Andouille Queen, Ron'eeka Hill and Teen Queen Shelby Clement. Each Queen commented on their past year as reigning queens and what the opportunity has meant to them.

Natalie Robottom – Proclamation – “National Breast Cancer Awareness Month”

Natalie Robottom stated, “Whereas, the month of October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month; and Whereas, the observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month promotes education of women about the importance of early detection for cancer; and Whereas since National Breast Cancer Awareness Month’s inception, mammography use has doubled, and breast cancer death rates have declined; and Whereas breast cancer deaths could decline further if all women age 40 and older received mammograms at regular intervals; and Whereas, it is critical that women learn more about preventive measures for this disease; and Whereas, having a dedicated month to raise awareness is a good start. Now, therefore, I, Natalie Robottom, Parish President do hereby proclaim the month of October, 2011 as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in St. John the Baptist Parish and urge all citizens and their families to get the facts about early detection.”

Ronnie Smith/O.J. Breech – Introduction – Contestants for the Miss Black Louisiana Pageant

O.J. Breech introduced four young ladies who are competing in the Miss

Black Louisiana Pageant this year. She wanted the parish to be aware that we have some great talent in the parish that are in the pageant. They are competing in all divisions and portions of the pageant. The girls were Tyra Ray, Shequita Breech, Amari Daniels, Tori Turner. All of these girls are residents of the parish. This is a state wide competition and you can participate online for the people's choice award. It will cost \$1.00 to vote but all of the proceeds go towards scholarships for the winners. Thank you for you allowing me to present these girls.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes September 13th, 2011, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval – Parade/Bonfire – ESJ Homecoming – Friday, October 28th, starting at 12:30 PM

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve the amended consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes September 13th, 2011, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval – Parade/Bonfire – ESJ Homecoming – Friday, October 28th, starting at 12:30 PM. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 abstaining (Lee).

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

11-36 (Carry over 9-13-11) An ordinance establishing the Fair Share Program for Equal Business Opportunity (C. Julien)

Councilman Julien stated, *"I would like to have this item removed from the agenda. Even though it meets the state guidelines at this point we want to make sure that the individuals that it is meant to help are helped by it. Those are the small businesses of the parish. So at this point I would want to remove it from the agenda."*

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to remove ordinance 11-36 from the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

11-37 (Public Hearing held) An ordinance amending ordinance No. 94-74 so as to incorporate a new street into the St. John the Baptist Parish address system(N. Robotom)

Theresa Rodgers stated, *"Administration requests approval of this item to incorporate Cortez Street, located in Coles Landing (Belle Pointe South of W. Airline Hwy.), into the St. John the Baptist Parish 911 address database system."*

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-37. The motion passed unanimously.

11-38 (Public Hearing held) An ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2011, of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana; prescribing the form, fixing the details and providing for the rights of the owners thereof; providing for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds and the application of the proceeds thereof to the refunding of certain bonds of said Parish; and

providing for other matters in connection therewith (N. Robottom)

Theresa Rodgers stated, "This ordinance is open for public hearing tonight and will not require action until the next council meeting. Mr. Hugh Martin is present if anyone has any questions."

There was no Public Comment at this time.

Councilman Lee stated, "Normally Mr. Hugh will get up and make some comments. With the market the way it is we can save a substantial amount of money with the refiling of these bonds. That is what this is all about."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "I just wanted to correct in our notes it says it is an issuance and sale, not the refinancing. So I am just making sure that we have it right."

Hugh Martin, Bond Attorney, stated, "You see what it is, it is technical but it is the issuance of refunding bonds. The proceeds from those bonds are used to pay off two issues which are now outstanding the series 2002 and 2003 bonds. The issuance of the refunding bonds accomplishes that."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just wanted to make sure it wasn't a new item we were going after."

Hugh Martin stated, "No that was originally introduced. Just sort of an update, we had prepared the official statement for distribution for the sale of these bonds, they are now on the internet and can be viewed. We also today had a rating call with Standard & Poors which involved Mrs. Robottom, Mrs. Rodgers, Vince, Jason Ackers, from my office and myself. We presented financial, statistical and legal information about the upcoming bond sale. We feel very well, very satisfied with the way that presentation went and we expect to get a very good rating on the bonds in about another week. That will permit the underwriters to go into the market the Tuesday before your next meeting where the actual orders for the sale of the bonds will be received and we will know then the exact interest rates to be adopted. We prepare the papers for your final adoption of the ordinance on that Wednesday meeting that you will have. There is no way to know for sure what the savings are but the bond market is really good now and we are expecting a net savings of around \$700,000.00 saving the tax payers that much money in the parish."

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

11-39 An ordinance for Re-subdivision of the Jules Martin Tract into Parcels herein designated as Parcel A, Parcel B and Parcel C of the Jules Martin Tract situated in Sections 46 & 84, T-11-S, R-7-E, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana
(N. Robottom)

11-40 An ordinance amending ordinance 11-14 relative to the Annual Operating Budget for the St. John the Baptist Land Escrow Fund for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2011. (N. Robottom)

11-41 An ordinance amending ordinance 11-26 relative to the Annual

Operating Budget for the St. John Parish Health and Human Services Department for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2011. (N. Robottom)

11-42 An ordinance amending ordinance 11-22 relative to the Annual Operating Budget for the St. John Parish Utility System Fund and Sales Tax District for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2011. (N. Robottom)

11-43 An ordinance amending ordinance 11-23 relative to the Annual Operating Budget for the St. John Parish General Fund, Juvenile Detention, Recreation, Economic Development, Public Works, Communication District, Airport, Public Safety, Criminal Court and Garyville Volunteer Fire Department for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2011. (N. Robottom)

11-44 An ordinance amending ordinance 10-33 relative to the Annual Operating Budget for the St. John Parish Ambulance Fund, ARC Maintenance Fund, Community Center, Health Unit, Mosquito Control, Solid Waste, Wastewater, Road Lighting, Senior Citizens, Parishwide Sewerage, Office of Fire Services, LaPlace Volunteer Fire Department, Reserve Volunteer Fire Department, and West Bank Volunteer Fire Department for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2011. (N. Robottom)

Councilwoman Millet asked, *"I would like the administration if you would since this is a lot of amendments to our budget if you could when you put this in our booklets let us know what the break downs are and what we are amending versus the entire budget like we had last time."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Most of this is year end audited numbers. It is just based on the audit findings. We will outline is specifically though."*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Lee stated, *"The finance committee met at 6:00 this evening. We had several items, actually four items involving bid awards and change orders. 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: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 abstention (Lee).

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Haston Lewis/Jaclyn Hotard – (Carry Over 9-13-11) Update Milesville drainage

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"I didn't know if you had a specific area that you were looking at."*

Councilman Lewis stated, *"I am looking at the whole Milesville and Woodland Quarters. From what I understand I thought all of that at one*

time was Milesville. I found out that Persimmon Street going the other way is Woodland Quarters. I am beginning to learn my district on my way out. I was looking at the drainage work that is going on where a lot of water is being brought in to Persimmon Street to the drainage to reach the pumping station so that they can pump it over the levee. I want to let you all know how important that Persimmon Street pump is because what it is doing is pumping all the water around St. Joan of Arc and everywhere else out there. I don't want to pour water on a drowning man. We are already drowning on Persimmon Street. I want to make sure that water gets out of there. I only have three months more here but you can believe the next three months I am going to be living on this side of the river. My idea is to be living right over here believe me. I want to see that the water gets out of there. We have been talking about another pump on Redbud Street. That is supposed to be part of this but that job isn't even out for bid yet. I don't know if we got the levee crossing yet. I am trying to make sure that everything is in place. I may not see it finished but I am going to make sure I see it started before I leave here. I want you all to work with me because let me tell you something if you want to clear your area up, you are going to have to clear my area up too because the water is coming to me and we are going to pump it out over the levee so everybody can be safe. We don't want to just bring the water in there and not clear up those culverts and everything. If you walk around there those culverts are dead end culverts. The water is going no where in that area. You can go and check it out for yourself. It is a shame because all they are doing is holding mosquitoes and something is going to happen in that area. I need your help and I am expecting your help."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "The item that I had one we did complete the Balsam Street project and that has worked very well for Balsam. I toured the parish with President Robottom for tropical storm Lee. There is still some area of concern there and the Persimmon Street/St. Joan of Arc project is going to address a lot of those concerns in getting the water out when we have those heavy rainfalls. The other area that I would like to look at in the Milesville area is around where LaPlace Medical Center is. We have a low area right there. I know it is a state highway so we will need some participation from our delegation there in the house and the senate to help us with those projects. We are making some progress definitely with Balsam, Persimmon and St. Joan of Arc that whole area is being addressed we just need to tie up the loose ends and I think we are on the right track."

Councilman Lewis asked, "When are we going to put the Redbud Street pump section out for bid? I don't think that is out for bid yet. I don't know if we even finished with the drawing yet or not. I remember at one time it was on the agenda and then it was removed."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Brian Nunes is here. We actually had the opportunity to see what happens on Persimmon and Redbud for tropical storm Lee which gave us a little different perspective. Prior to that, the engineers were working on a plan to make sure that Redbud drained. They were separated initially because of the concern for a permit but they are in redesign for that area to make sure that water is drained and is drained in the direction that it most easily flows. Brian is here to address any specific questions but they are in the design phase. They are working to make sure that the Persimmon Street/St. Joan of Arc project is completed as intended. I know there was a stall with

regard to three phase power but we have taken care of that with an agreement that the council approved at the last meeting with Entergy and we are looking forward to actually completing all of those projects and clearing up those long standing problems. Do you have something specific for Mr. Nunes?"

Councilman Lewis stated, "No. I just want to see it out for bid and continue working on it."

Councilman Smith asked, "Can Mr. Brian tell us when that project will be ready to go out for bids?"

Brian Nunes, Shread-Kuyrkendall, stated, "Right now what we are doing is looking at a few different options to try and save some cost on the overall project. There are a few ways we can go just to get everything optimal to get the most bang for the buck is kind of what we are doing. We should have some preliminary sketches with a few different costs estimates within the next three weeks."

Councilman Smith asked, "So can you give us any idea of about how long it is going to take from that step to get this to go out for bid? The reason I am asking this is because this council basically started these projects. This is the last of that project. We would like to at least get these projects started before the majority of us come off of the council so that the new council is not trying to deal with something that they have no idea of."

Brian Nunes stated, "I think in about three weeks we will have a few options. What I would like to do at that time is set up a meeting with my office, the administration and any council members who would like to add their input and we could just decide on what everybody would like to do as a group and once we reach that decision it is a matter of just going out after that."

Councilman Lewis stated, "I hear him say saving money. Is there a money problem?"

Brian Nunes stated, "It is not a money problem. We would just like to make it the most effective project for the area."

Councilman Lewis stated, "That is all I wanted to know money will stop anything."

Councilman Gauff asked, "As far as Fir Street, Fir Street should not be diverted to Persimmon correct? I thought what we had looked at was that it was staying on the North side and that it was not crossing under to Persimmon."

Brian Nunes stated, "Fir Street for the most part it goes down towards the tracks then there is a cross drain that goes to the canal towards the West. Whatever over flow that doesn't make it to that cross drain will end up coming to Persimmon but the pump was sized adequately to handle that."

Councilman Gauff stated, "There was some concern about pipes on Persimmon being overlaid on top of one another. That was another thing we had talked about when we were out there Mr. Lewis. We went out there

just this past week there was some concern about the weight of the pipes being on top of the culverts."

Brian Nunes stated, *"There were some culverts that we were putting on top because there were some sewer lines under there and there are some other lines beneath it but what we did was make sure that there was enough separation between the two lines that the existing lines won't be affected by the weight of the culverts."*

Councilman Lewis stated, *"I understand what Mr. Gauff was saying about the water and which way it is going. I can tell you that water will be going towards Persimmon because they got pumps that will make sure it goes to Persimmon. So to say it isn't going that way is not so. We know it is going there. I can guarantee that. If not you don't need the pumps."*

Brian Nunes stated, *"Some of the drainage will be going to those pumps and they were designed to handle the additional flow."*

Councilman Lewis stated, *"I have no problem with that either."*

OLD BUSINESS:

Charles Julien – (Carry Over 9-13-11) Overturn of trailer placement denial for Tia Clayton – 227 Chad B. Baker – Reserve

Councilman Julien stated, *"At this time I would like to make a motion to override Planning and Zoning for Mrs. Clayton."*

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to overturn Planning & Zoning and grant a trailer placement to Tia Clayton – 227 Chad B. Baker Street in Reserve. The motion passed with 6 yeas and 3 neas (Usry, Cheryl Millet & Danny Millet).

NEW BUSINESS:

Ronnie Smith – Changing of the Tuesday, October 11th, 2011 Council meeting to Wednesday, October 12th, 2011 in LaPlace due to the Night Out Against Crime

Councilman Smith stated, *"I would like to have the next council meeting changed from Tuesday, October 11, 2011 to Wednesday, October 12th, 2011 in LaPlace due to the Night Out Against Crime."*

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to change the meeting of Tuesday, 10-11-11 to 10-12-11 due to Night Out Against Crime. The motion passed unanimously.

Cheryl Millet – Resolution R11-40 – A resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to contract with the National Association of Counties (NACO) to administer a prescription discount program for parish residents

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"When I went to the NACO conference this year in July, this is a program that is available to all residents of the parish of St. John at absolutely no cost to that resident. It is a discount program to allow them to purchase their medical/prescription*

drugs at a discounted rate. This is a program that has been supported around the nation. Our neighboring parishes get a monthly report letting them know how much they save on this. If this is something that we can provide to our residents, those that do not have insurance or those who don't have a co-pay and have to pay full price for their medication this is a discount. I just think it is something worthwhile that we can give back to all of the residents of St. John."

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to approve Resolution R11-40 – A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to contract with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to administer a prescription discount program for parish residents. **WHEREAS**, NACo would provide prescription discount cards and informational material to distribute to residents; and, **WHEREAS**, information would be distributed through St. John Parish utility bills and available at several public offices; and, **WHEREAS**, several local pharmacies have already agreed to participate through contracts with NACo; and, **WHEREAS**, there is no cost to residents or St. John Parish; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the St. John the Baptist Council does hereby authorize the Parish President to sign and contract with NACo to administer a no-cost prescription discount program that will be available to all St. John residents and distributed through St. John Parish utility bills. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 abstaining (Lee).

Charles Julien – Overturn of trailer placement denial for Kerriana Riley – 131 E. 13th Street - Reserve

Councilman Julien stated, "I just want to put everyone on notice of my intent to overturn planning & zoning. If anyone has concerns they can give me a call."

CORRESPONDANCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Julien stated, "I would like to address, I don't think I gave a good explanation for removing the DBE program. Basically my council has supported me in this endeavor as best they could in all the ways that I needed support. The thing that we want to make sure of is that the small businesses get the work. The small businesses from St. John Parish not being able to find loop holes or allowing major companies to find loop holes so that the smaller companies cannot come and get the work. So I just wanted to give an explanation to the small business owners of St. John and let them know why I removed it. I would also like to wish my son a Happy Birthday today and just let him know that I love him and my loving wife is here and I want to let you know that I love you. Thank you."

Councilman Smith stated, "Mr. Julien I don't appreciate that. I don't appreciate that because my daughter's birthday is tomorrow. I was supposed to wish her a Happy Birthday first now you know you are going to get it when she sees you. No really I would like to wish my daughter, Lexus a Happy Birthday. She is turning that big 11 and she is home doing back flips right now because her birthday is tomorrow. So Happy Birthday angel."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "My daughter's birthday is October 22nd, which is a very important day here in St. John Parish. She asked me to

have it moved and I said I would get President Robottom on that right away to change the date of the election. I just wanted to remind everyone about the Andouille pageant. I know we had the Miss and the teen here of 2010. The pageant is Saturday, October 1st, I am sure Natalie is going to mention it in her president remarks. It is 7:00 PM at the St. John Theatre. I believe the day after is the pageant for the smaller girls. So if you get an opportunity to come out and share in that event it is very nice."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I got a message today from IESI, the garbage pick up, that because of the heat today they were unable to complete the pick up route along the St. Andrews corridor. They are asking residents to please leave your can outside and they will pick them up tomorrow."

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Natalie Robottom stated, "We invite you to the Groundbreaking for the St. John the Baptist Parish Red Barn Farmers Market at 10:00 AM. The groundbreaking will take place 5763 Highway 18, Wallace, LA near the Veterans Memorial Bridge in Wallace. The Registrar of Voters would like to remind all residents to review their voter identification cards. During 2011 reapportionment, many changes were made to district line and voting precincts. Please review your cards for changes! Also, if you have moved or changed your mailing address, you must visit the Registrar of Voters office by next week, September 21 to update your registration information. The last day to register to vote for the October 22 election is September 21. Labor Day weekend, my staff, council members, and I spent the weekend fighting Tropical Storm Lee. A special thank you, to my staff for responding quickly to all concerned areas and special requests. Although the storm was fairly small, we did experience flooding in a number of areas. Throughout the weekend we road throughout the parish to see where flooding was problematic and to assess area and make decisions on how it can be solved. Fortunately two projects are now underway in two major areas that experienced flooding. The Persimmon Street/SJA Drainage Project is underway and the Homewood Drainage Project began this week. We will continue to monitor the projects to ensure they are moving forward and addressing all issues in those areas. As we enter into the peak season of Hurricane Season, we would like to remind all residents to sign up for our E-news Updates to receive updates by email and sign up for our First Call Emergency Notification System on our website at sjbparish.com. Residents can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates and notifications. As I mentioned before the Homewood Drainage Groundbreaking was held last Friday. Civil Construction Company has mobilized at the site and construction began this week. This is a 180 day project and is expected to be complete by Christmas. Thank you to all who attended the groundbreaking ceremony and we look forward to the completion of the project as we have seen many times in the past it is a very necessary project. As part of the Reserve Area Drainage Project, LA Contracting Enterprise, LLC began asphaltting roads involved in the Reserve Drainage Project. LA Contracting will begin

work on West 7th St., West 6th St. and Ram Alley tomorrow. West 7th Street will be closed between the Railroad Track and Ram Ally for one day in order to asphalt the street. We ask that you please use caution when driving in the area. Roads will be closed throughout the week. All emergency responders, garbage service, schools, and mail service have been notified. River Parish Transit Authority transportation vouchers are available until September 30 at the Health and Human Services Department located at 128 Central Avenue in Reserve. Please visit their office for your voucher. Qualifying for the October 2011 Election is complete. Residents are encouraged to register to vote by September 21. The 2011 Andouille Pageant is currently seeking girls to compete in the miss and teen divisions. The pageant will take place Saturday, October 1. A mandatory meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 28, 2011 at St. John Theatre at 6:00 PM. All interested girls can visit andouillefestival.com or call Dana at 985-652-9569 for more information. Our Brown Bag Lunch Series is moving forward. We have held one in Garyville and one Reserve in the past three weeks. We will continue to hold them throughout the year. Residents are invited to our next meeting which will be held in LaPlace at the Civic Center Atrium on October 6 at 11:00 AM. We held an ethics training meeting for top administrators, management staff, fire chiefs, and elected officials. Brent Durham and Michael David Dupree, attorneys representing the Louisiana Board of Ethics, discussed the role and responsibilities of the ethics board, revised statutes affecting public servants, family members and vendors, requests for advisory opinions, complaints, and penalties for violating the Code of Ethics. Next year we will hold a training session for all parish employees. There were many events held to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the attack on September 11, 2001. Thank you to all who did not forget our fallen heroes and the men, women, and children we lost that day as well as our service men and women who continue to fight for our country. Congratulations to all St. John Parish High School football teams on their wins this past Friday. Football season is off to a great start and wish all of them good luck for the rest of the season. The St. John Parish Sheriff's Office Expo will be held Saturday, September 17 at 11:00 at Home Depot."

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 7:18 PM, Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Council Secretary