

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 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 Rudolph Soraparau Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, September 13th, 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

ABSENT: Charles Julien

Councilman Gauff led the Prayer. Councilman Millet led the Pledge.

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

Ronnie Smith/George Grace – Candidate State Senate District II

George Grace commented that he is from St. Gabriel, Iberville Parish. He is an attorney by trade. He graduated from Catholic High of Baton Rouge and finished college at Southern University Law Center. He has his private practice. He is the public defender for West Baton Rouge and Iberville Parish. He is running for State Senate District II. He gave a brief history on his beliefs and wants for the state of Louisiana and asked for your support on voting day.

Ronnie Smith/O.J. Breech – Candidate State Representative

O.J. Breech commented on her bid for the seat. She expressed her wants and beliefs in bringing St. John everything that is put on the table in Baton Rouge and making this a striving and economically sound parish. She gave her history in creating programs for the area for youths and adults and what her intent is to do while in office. She asked everyone to consider her when they vote in October.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes August 23rd, 2011, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval – Block Party – Gary Fetterolf – 113 Lake Ridge – Saturday, October 8th, 2011 – from 7:00 PM until 10:00 PM; added item Bicycle Parade Permit – Greater New Plymouth Rock Baptist Church – 09/17/11 – 8:00 AM

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to approve the amended consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes August 23rd, 2011, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval – Block Party – Gary Fetterolf – 113 Lake Ridge – 10/8/11 – 7:00 PM

until 10:00 PM; added item Bicycle Parade Permit – Greater New Plymouth Rock Baptist Church – 09/17/11 – 8:00 AM. The motion passed with 7 yeas, 1 absent (Julien) and 1 abstaining (Lee).

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

11-35 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance that Section 2:5 of Sub-Chapter A, "In General" of Chapter 2 of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances is hereby corrected to provide the correct polling place location for Precinct 1-3. (N. Robottom)

Theresa Rodgers stated, *"This change reflects the new polling location for Precinct 1-3 as the Wallace Fire Station. Administration requests approval."*

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-35. The motion passed with Councilman Julien absent.

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

The above ordinance was carried over to the next meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

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

11-38 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)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Lee stated, *"The finance committee met at 6:00 this evening. 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 Gauff seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to grant administration authorization to re-advertise for lighting fixtures for the Governmental Office Building, approved to take the four bids for the Utilities Department Office Trailer under advisement, approved to take the one bid for control valves for the Ruddock Well System under advisement, approved to grant administration Authorization to renew the Fire Department's Sick and Accident (Special Risk) Policy with National Union, approved to to table the authorization to renew the contract with the Broussard

Baloney Law Firm, APC for services associated with the adjudicated properties program, approved to grant administration authorization to accept Choice Title Incorporated's request to terminate the contract for services associated with the adjudicated properties program, approved to grant administration authorization to execute the Certificate of Substantial Completion for the Riverlands Area Drainage Project, and approved to grant administration authorization to execute an Electric Services Agreement with Entergy Louisiana, LLC for service at 268 Persimmon Street for the Persimmon Street Drainage Project. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Julien), 2 abstaining (Hotard, Lee).

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Haston Lewis – Update Milesville drainage

Councilman Lewis asked that this item be carried over to the next agenda.

Haston Lewis – Update Castle Estate Drainage Pump

Councilman Lewis stated, *"We have a really big problem on Castle. On the back end of it the water doesn't drain good. A couple of months ago we had a lot of water come way up. We brought a pump back there all we did was took the water and sent it to another space so it would drain but after that we had some pipes put back there to drain the water but to get the water over that tract we are going to have to get a pump. I don't hear anything going on with the pump so I am asking this council if we have money anywhere we need to help those people back there because I would hate to see water get in those peoples houses. It hasn't happened yet but you can see it is getting worse. If the rain last a while it builds up like I don't know what. If you put that pump back there I guarantee you won't have any flooding back there and even if it doesn't clear all the water it will help them reduce their insurance too. I would like to ask administration to look and see what it will take and what it will cost to get a pump back there."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Yes Mr. Lewis we did have some problems with Tropical Storm Lee. It was an opportunity for us to see some of the projects that worked and some of the areas that are of concern some of the projects that we are getting ready to start. That was a problem for some of it was related to valves. There are also some issues with the width of the ditches in the rear. I know they are looking at some options for improving drainage in that area. As soon as we come up with a project and an estimate we will get back with you."*

Haston Lewis – Upgrade Edgard Water Plant – New pipes needed to get to right pressure

Councilman Lewis stated, *"I have been working with that Edgard water plant since I have been back on this board and we have a lot of problems. First we started off with the intake line you all helped me get that down. The roof all the water was falling in the roof on the inside and they still have a leak even with the new roof. The facilities in the plant weren't up to date. Now I got good quality water but I have trouble with the quantity because I have trouble getting the water in the line and down the road because the amount of*

people that are coming on the line right now. What we have over there is a 6 inch line dumping water into a 12 inch line. All that stuff has been there a long time. I know you all remember me talking about the clarifier and we patched the clarifier. We also were talking about that big tank back there that had a bad spot well we went ahead and patched the roof. I am going to tell you something. If we don't do something with that Edgard water plant it is going to be gone then what are we going to do for water over here? We talked about another line coming under the river. Something needs to be done about this bad. If we expect this parish to grow on this side of the river how are we going to do it with no water? I need help. I need something to be done. I need you to send somebody out there and see what it would take, to straighten that water plant out completely not just patch it."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually Mr. Lewis before the item was placed on the agenda both the engineer and the director of utilities scheduled a meeting to discuss that exact concern and the ability to get water from the 6 inch into the 12. Our engineer is working on drafting something to assist with that. Once we have a plan and see what those cost will be we will present that back to the council with a proposed solution. They have met on it. They are working on something now and as soon as we have a means of dealing with that as you said it has been long existing but as the parish continues to grow the quantity of water that is going to be needed is only going to increase and we have to be able to provide that to the residents of the West Bank."

Cheryl Millet – Update on street signs

Councilwoman Millet stated, "October of last year we started this process trying to get 16 street signs put on Airline Hwy. What is the story Mrs. Robottom?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "As was mentioned in the report, this was contracted out to Traffic Solutions of New Orleans after the permit was received from DOTD. The anticipated completion date of the signs is October 31st and our employees will be installing those."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So our employees are now going to be installing them? I was under the impression that we were contracting the entire project out because we felt it would be safer for the other company to do it then to have our employees do it."

Natalie Robottom stated, "At this point we contracted out the fabrication of the signs and our employees will install them."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So we should have these up by?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "November the 4th."

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Charles Julien – Overturn of trailer placement denial for Tia Clayton – 227 Chad B. Baker – Reserve

The above item will be carried over to the next agenda.

Theresa Rodgers – Resolution R11-37 – A resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to amend the Housing Minor Repair Program to increase the number of houses to repair from 60 to 110

Theresa Rodgers stated, "Administration requests approval of this resolution to amend the original program application for the Housing Minor Repair Program to add 50 more homes with an increased budget of \$2,024,240.00."

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to approve Resolution R11-37 – A resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to amend the Housing Minor Repair Program to increase the number of houses to repair from 60 to 110. **WHEREAS**, St. John the Baptist Parish is requesting an amendment to the budget for the Housing Minor Repair Program (HMRP) and to eliminate the inflow and infiltration Manhole project; and, **WHEREAS**, a total of 392 applications were reviewed, 85% of the applicants were senior citizens categorized as Priority 1; homeowners with Hurricane Gustav/Ike damage in their homes which represent a threat to their health and safety, and are considered very low income and that has an elderly head of household over 60 years of age; and, **WHEREAS**, we are requesting to remove the funds that were allocated to the Inflow Infiltration Manhole Project in the amount of \$746,250 less the labor cost of \$6,461 to the HMRP. Repairs for the inflow and infiltration Manholes will be funded through the 2009 Bond Issue and the LDEQ loan; and, **WHEREAS**, the initial housing minor repair budget is \$1,284,451 and with the additional funding it will increase to \$2,024,240. The additional funding will be used to repair up to 50 additional homes throughout the parish. **WHEREAS**, with the assistance of the Gustav/Ike disaster recovery funds, St. John the Baptist Parish will be able to aide homeowners with making improvements that are needed to keep their properties up to minimum levels of health and safety, and prolong the life of 110 houses. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that St. John the Baptist Parish Council does hereby approve amending the Housing Minor Repair Program application to increase the number of houses from 60 to 110. The motion passed with Councilman Julien absent.

Theresa Rodgers – Resolution R11-38 – A resolution to apply for a grant for the Regala Parking Lot and concrete walkway

Theresa Rodgers stated, "Administration requests approval of this resolution in support of an application to the Office of Community Development for funds in the amount of \$105,200 to repave the parking lot and repair concrete walkways near the REGALA Park Gym."

Councilman Gauff asked, "My question or concern is suppose we don't get the grant. What will we do?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We will."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "So the application to the office of community development, are we submitting the application, the parish?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "These are LGAP grants where the funding is

there for support of your critical structures. So it is just a matter of going through the process and having the supporting resolution and the project. We have done this before. It is money that is set aside by parish. So I am confident that we are going to get it. However if we don't we have funding in the public works streets line item budget that we were doing it anyway. As a matter of fact we may get it done and just reimburse public works with those funds because if you have been out there lately it is really bad. I actually thought the grass was covering some of our infrastructure and in actuality it is grass that has overgrown the existing parking lot. So we need some additional parking. It is like riding through hills and that will be taken care of."

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Resolution R11-38. A resolution of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council approving the application for grant funds from the Governor's Office of Community Development Local Government Assistance Program for the repaving of the REGALA Park parking lot and concrete walkway. **WHEREAS,** the Governor's Office of Community Development Grant Program provides funds to local governments for needed infrastructure and long-term capital improvements in rural areas; and, **WHEREAS,** said procedures established by the Governor's Office of Community Development Grant Program requests the applicant's governing body certify by resolution the approval of the application as part of the submittal of said application; and, **WHEREAS,** the REGALA Park parking lot has not been paved in many years; and, **WHEREAS,** the existing parking lot is in very poor condition and requires repaving; and, **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the St. John the Baptist Parish Council approves the application for grant funds in the amount of \$105,200 from the Governor's Office of Community Development Local Government Assistance Program for the repaving of the REGALA Park parking lot and concrete walkway. The motion passed with Councilman Julien absent.

Theresa Rodgers – Resolution R11-39 – A resolution to apply for a grant to install a 12 inch water line under Belle Terre Blvd.

Theresa Rodgers stated, *"Administration requests approval of this resolution in support of an application to the Office of Community Development for funds in the amount of \$33,500 to install a 12-inch water line under Belle Terre Blvd."*

Councilwoman Hotard asked, *"What is the purpose of the water line?"*

Theresa Rodgers stated, *"It will actually increase the flow four fold. It will greatly enhance water pressure and flow to that area. As you know that is a growing area in LaPlace and this improvement is greatly needed."*

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to approve Resolution R11-39. A resolution of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council approving the application for grant funds from the Governor's Office of Community Development Local Government Assistance Program for a 12 inch water line to provide additional water flow from the Belle Terre Tower to local residents and commercial customers in that locale. **WHEREAS,** the Governor's Office of Community Development Grant Program provides funds to local governments for

needed infrastructure and long-term capital improvements in rural areas; and, **WHEREAS**, said procedures established by the Governor's Office of Community Development Grant Program requests the applicant's governing body certify by resolution the approval of the application as part of the submittal of said application; and, **WHEREAS**, the parish presently has a 6 inch water line across Belle Terre Blvd from the existing 500,000 gallon elevated storage tank which services the residents and businesses in that locale; and, **WHEREAS**, the 6 inch line can no longer service the customer as the flow is too low to provide sufficient domestic potable water from the tower; and, **WHEREAS**, the parish is proposing to install a 12 inch line to increase the flow by 4 times that of a 6 inch line; and, **WHEREAS**, the Parish is seeking funds in the amount of \$23,500 to install the 12 inch water line;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. John the Baptist Parish Council does hereby approve the application for grant funds in the amount of \$33,500 from the Governor's Office of Community Development Local Government Assistance Program for a 12 inch water line to provide additional water flow from the Belle Terre Tower to local residents and commercial customers in that locale. The motion passed with Councilman Julien absent.

Theresa Rodgers/Kathy Gilmore – LNO – Authorization to execute a Letter of No Objection with Entergy Louisiana, LLC for the proposed 230kV Iron Man to Tezcuco Transmission Line

Theresa Rodgers stated, *"This project adds a third transmission line to the existing structure to establish another electrical path between Tezcuco and the Little Gypsy Plant. This will prevent potential line trips and electrical overloads and Administration requests approval."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to approve a Letter of No Objection with Entergy Louisiana, LLC for the proposed 230kV Iron Man to Tezcuco Transmission Line. The motion passed with Councilman Julien absent.

CORRESPONDANCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Gauff stated, *"I would like to commend the administration on their process of going out and trying to get these grants for us. It seems like they are working hard to put some money back into our budget or save us some money. So thanks. I would also like to say that we have a lot of projects out there that we are working on and to our constituents please just bear with us. We are trying to make improvements especially on Persimmon Street. We are trying to work with you and for you so please hang in there with us."*

Councilman Lewis stated, *"Let me give you all some good news. The internet is on its way to the West Bank. You all may not know that. I checked the bridge they put the pipe across there already. I had a chance to talk to them they said Comcast is coming across with the internet."*

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"I just wanted to mention really quickly I would like to extend my prayers and condolences to the McTopy family. Pat McTopy has served the parish in many capacities and he has served us very well. I know he and his family are in our prayers."*

Councilwoman Usry stated, "Same thing, I wanted to extend my sympathies to the McTopy and the Prudomme family. His wife was a Prudomme."

Councilman Smith stated, "I am sure those sympathies go out to Mr. McTopy from the entire council and the administration."

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. All are invited to see the Sheriff's Office in action."

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 7:25 PM, Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Julien absent.

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Council Secretary

