

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**JUNE 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015**  
**Chairman Lennix Madere**  
**Vice-Chairman Cheryl Millet**

Members: Lucien Gauff, III, Jaclyn Hotard, Art Smith, Ranney Wilson, Lennix Madere, Marvin Perrilloux, Michael Wright, Larry Snyder, Cheryl Millet

**PRESENT:** Larry Snyder, Lennix Madere, Cheryl Millet, Ranney Wilson, Marvin Perrilloux, Michael Wright, Art Smith

**ABSENT:** Jaclyn Hotard and Lucien Gauff

**BID OPENING REPORT/AWARDS:**

**Hugh Martin/Jason Akers - Call for receipt of sealed bids for sale of Three Million Dollar Sales Tax Bonds (Ord. 15-20)**

Jason Akers, Bond Counsel, stated, "This is the conclusion of the 3 million dollar sales tax bond issue for fire protection purposes specifically the fire station to be built for the LaPlace Volunteer Fire Department. Pursuant to state law we have published notice on your behalf for the receipt of bids once in the L'Observateur and once in the daily journal of commerce in Orleans Parish. At this time we would ask that anyone prepared to submit a sealed bid for the purchase of the entire 3 million dollar principal amount of the bond so please present that sealed bid now and just so you are not worried we actually have four that have been received prior to this time that were submitted through us through Mandy Thompson, the financial advisor and with your permission we will take these under advisement we will go out into the hall and do a little bit of calculation and bring the results back to you at the actual council meeting at 6:30 PM when you address the ordinance."

**MOTION:** Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to take the bids for sale of Three Million Dollar Sales Tax Bonds (Ord. 15-20). The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Gauff absent.

**Kia Price - Bid Opening - Westbank Courthouse Security Cameras**

This bid opening was extended to June 30, 2015.

**Jobe' Boucvalt - (Carry Over 6-9-15) Authorization to enter into a lease agreement with Motorola for the 911 Communications District VESTA 911 Systems Upgrade**

Jobe' Boucvalt stated, "Administration recommends entering into an agreement with Motorola for 911 system upgrades. The current system is five years old, there are no spare parts available, and support for the old system expires in 2017. The total cost of the system is \$356,256.00 which will be divided into 4 payments. Two payments will be in 2015 and two in 2016 through the 911 Communications District. To take advantage of a no interest program, the final payment will be before April 1, 2016. Administration recommends approval."

**MOTION:** Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to enter into a lease agreement with Motorola for a 911 Communications District VESTA 911 Systems Upgrade. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Gauff absent.

Councilwoman Hotard arrived at 6:11 PM.

**Michael Coburn/David Dupre - (Tabled 6-9-15) Authorization to execute Task Order No. 2015-1 with Meyer Engineering, Ltd. for Mississippi River Multi Use Trail - Phase 4**

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to remove the authorization to execute Task Order No. 2015-1 with Meyer Engineering, Ltd. for Mississippi River Multi Use Trail - Phase 4 from the Table. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Gauff absent.

Mike Coburn stated, "St. John was awarded a \$2,470,000 grant through DOTD for Phase 4 of the Mississippi River Trail, extending it from West 10<sup>th</sup> street in Reserve to the St. James Parish line. The conceptual plans are complete and final plans and specifications are required to move this project forward. This task order is for \$101,140 for engineering services and a not to exceed amount of \$152,486 for supplemental services. The Regional Planning Commission partially funded conceptual plans and the local match will be funded with \$79,040 from the 2014 bond issue and \$87,293 from the 2016 and 2017 Recreation fund. Administration recommends approval."

Councilman Snyder stated, "We tabled this last week because all of the money was coming out of the Recreation fund balance and it looks like it is still coming out of the Recreation fund balance and from the Recreation 2014 bond issue am I right with that? Why? I am asking why didn't we go to Economic Development for funds?"

Mike Coburn stated, "This is a Recreational project that is what we totally feel and believe."

Councilman Snyder stated, "It is a state project and we are raping our Recreational budget to help pay for the state project and that is what I don't like. Every time we walk somewhere it comes out of the Recreation budget and to me that is not right. What is wrong with Economic Development? It is going from New Orleans to Baton Rouge so that means it is a state project. Is this a grant they are giving us? I see you have written down there we have a grant it is a state project we just have to pay a little bit for it to run through our parish so why can't some of it come out of Economic Development and maybe some other budget?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We didn't have a Recreation budget and unfortunately we paid for it out of public works and when we did that then we didn't have money for roads and bridges. Historically these trails have come out of public works or other budgets that really it

shouldn't have but we didn't have a recreation budget. This project is considered a recreation project, although it is state funded, in our parish it is a recreational trail that is going to connect to the Timbermill Trail, that is also recreation and in the bond issue we put matches for Phase III, Phase IV and the Timbermill Trail because these are considered recreational projects. We understand in the past we had to go to Economic Development but from what we have been advised you guys are encouraging us to pay for things out of the funds that it belongs in and so instead of going back to public works as we used to, we put it in recreation which they are also getting some assistance from public works in cutting but it is described as a recreational program with regards to EDC we are also very limited with regards to the fund balance there. We have already started eating into that one. Unfortunately the way it is set up we have to use Economic Development funds to help out some of our other departments. We just took a big hit to EDC to assist the DA's office so there are things that we can use EDC money that we can't use recreation money for and we already know that we are going to have another hit from the DA's office so because there is funding in recreation, it was a recreation program we would like to pay for it over time through recreation. We are not inhibiting the department from doing anything these projects take a long time so we are projecting 2016 or 2017, it could be 2018 or 2019 because we have not even let Phase III and it won't be let until September so we have been working on some of these trails for over ten years so we think we can budget accordingly out of recreation to make sure that this project is done. Keep in mind the state is giving us it is not a state project it is our project 2.5 million dollars it is a parish project. We applied for a fund. We received a grant and it is being managed by the engineer that we selected to do this project. So they are working on the parishes behalf and our match for that is what we think is something reasonable to finish a project that we think the residents are enjoying along the river. The bikers came I think we had several public meetings to try and deal with the bonfires and how we wouldn't interrupt that. We had safety meetings in the EOC and it is my understanding that this is a project that you all supported because I think we passed a resolution saying so and then trying to work with the firm to design something that wouldn't interfere with our history of bonfires along the river but this is the avenue for payment."

Councilman Snyder asked, "I am sure there is some other way we can figure out. Did we look anywhere else?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We did."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Where did we look?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Based on the fact that you tabled it last week, they did go back, they looked at Economic Development."

Councilman Snyder asked, "What was the reason for not going there and getting some?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Because we already know we are going to have to fund something else out of Economic Development that was not budgeted."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And that is going to be the same way for Recreation we already know that we have kids right now waiting to go on a trip and they can't go and are not going for what reason? The money."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I have no idea there are no money problems in recreation."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well there aren't any now because it is only half of the year but we still have to pay salaries and everything else out of recreation."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We don't anticipate any problems with recreation. We have video poker funds coming in. There is a millage."

Councilman Snyder stated, "That wasn't enough when it was coming."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Right but we passed a millage that will now fund recreation and so it is funded."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I know it is funded but what I am saying is that it seems like every time we have to make any effort to do anything the money is coming out of recreation."

Natalie Robottom stated, "If it is a recreation expense."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well to me it is not a recreation expense. You said this trail is going to Garyville Timbermill too."

Natalie Robottom stated, "No."

Councilman Snyder stated, "That is what you just said."

Natalie Robottom stated, "No I said there is a trail. The Timbermill Trail that is funded through another source that is going from Airline Highway and it will connect to the one on the Mississippi River again another grant."

Councilman Snyder asked, "It will connect to the one on the Mississippi River? That is news to me."

Natalie Robottom stated, "It will. We are on Phase I but that is what was attractive to the recreation trails program was that we would have some connectivity so they gave us additional funding to connect to the river. So it is part of what we consider a recreational program. We are not, I promise you, we are not hurting recreation. We have not denied recreation anything they have asked for. The rooms are being held. We are offering swimming again, busing, transportation, camp and we are continuing to add programs. Mr. Watkins is actually at a meeting tonight. I know he and Ms. Saulney are meeting with the Sports Foundation to try to attract an iron man competition out here. So we are continuing to add programs and we are not going to exceed the budgeted amount in recreation not anytime soon."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Do we have any projection of what our recreation fund balance might be at the end of the year? Did we look at that?"

Vince Lucia stated, *"It is too early to indicate that right now."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"That is right. That is exactly right but we are steadily using money out of it."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"But we budgeted that."*

Councilman Snyder asked, *"We budgeted this?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"We didn't budget this. The things that we are spending out of recreation are budgeted. This is the only item that we didn't and it is going to be in 2016 and 2017 so that isn't touching this year we will have to put it in the budget for 2016 and 2017."*

Councilman Snyder asked, *"So the same amount is going to come out both times?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Both times but we aren't taking anything this year."*

Councilman Snyder asked, *"Right so then we are going to spend \$250,000.00 out of the recreation budget in the next two years for this trail?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Right well we are thinking the next two years it depends on when it comes in it could be three years it just takes time based on when the design is finished."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"That is fine as long as the people in this parish when we are spending the money on recreation are not suffering. We cannot say that we can't afford to send you here or there or for uniforms for the football."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"We have not denied anybody any of that."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"That is all I am looking out for."*

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"I understand and I have spoken with Mr. Meyers and I understand that the cost is not there to keep it on the toe and I follow all of that stuff but I just have a real big problem with shutting people off from being able to make a bonfire and for that reason I am not going to say that it is not a worthwhile project, it is a great project and I thoroughly support it and I think having this bike path along the river is a great idea but I just hate making something permanent and shutting someone out for that reason I am going to not vote in favor of this just because it is a permanent thing and I don't want to shut people out that is all."*

Councilman Wilson asked, *"We have to approve the engineer's drawings correct?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"We did meet with the people with the bonfires and we didn't close any of that out we designed it around those individuals with bonfires to allow them to continue with their bonfires. There are areas that they wouldn't be allowed to anyway because they are near industry. So we did go the extra mile to meet with them and to make sure that the areas that are on the crown where*

*not typically where the bonfires were built so we did follow up and I think there are shelves and we built a shelf that would allow people to continue building their bonfires."*

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thanks and that is what I was about to ask Natalie that we did accommodate the bonfires that were there and we built the shelf there and we know that there is a future need that this is also a possibility. So it is not a permanent lock out of a bonfire. I think that is an incorrect statement."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Who would pay for the shelves? Would the applicant the person that is trying to get the permit pay for the shelf or would the parish absorb that cost?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "It would have to be the parish this would have to be designed you can't just go up there and do it."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "If the parish is going to pay the cost of having a shelf put up there than I have no problem voting for this but if the parish is not going to pay for the shelf I have a problem."

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to execute Task Order No. 2015-1 with Meyer Engineering, Ltd. for Mississippi River Multi Use Trail - Phase 4. The motion passed with Councilman Gauff absent.

Councilman Gauff arrived at 6:19 PM.

**Natalie Robottom/Rob Delaune - Authorization to execute Amendment No. 2 with Digital Engineering, Inc. for Administration and Management of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals Drinking Water Loan Fund Project**

Natalie Robottom stated, "This amendment is for management of the UV Disinfection Project required by LDHH and added to the loan program, amendments to the System Improvement Plan associated with the addition, and Temporary Servitude Services for the Mississippi River Waterline Crossing Project. The total amount of the amendment is \$57,197.75, which has been reviewed and approved by LDHH. Administration recommends approval."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to execute Amendment No. 2 with Digital Engineering, Inc. for Administration and Management of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals Drinking Water Loan Fund Project. The motion passed unanimously.

Natalie Robottom stated, "We are requesting we received a late notice that there is a contract required to provide feeding services to the inmates working for the school system at Emily C. Watkins as well as the ARC Center. We only received this today and Mr. Perilloux recommended that we get it authorized. We couldn't just feed the

*inmates but we understand why the school system was requesting we do that as part of their program but to be on the side of caution we are asking that you approve these two documents so that we can move forward with the summer feeding program."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to suspend the rules to add two items to the agenda in relation to the Summer Feeding Program. The motion passed unanimously.

Rhonda Lemons stated, *"The reason why we are requesting that these two agreements be passed is because the trustees as well as the ARC are non-program adults and in order for the parish not to be liable as it relates to violating the program requirements in addition to transporting the meals we just needed to make sure that we covered ourselves with this agreement as suggested by the state."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to enter into a joint agreement with the St. John Parish School Board (trustee) for the Summer Food Service Program. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to enter into a joint agreement with the St. John ARC Work Activity Center for the Summer Food Service Program. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.