

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 25th, 2013

Chairman Jaclyn Hotard

Vice-Chairman Art Smith

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

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

ABSENT: Marvin Perrilloux

BID OPENING REPORT/AWARDS:

Vince Lucia - Bid Award - (Tabled 06-11-13) 2013 Pumps and related Materials

Vince Lucia, CFO, stated, "Administration recommends leaving this item on the table for further review of all bid items."

Vince Lucia - Bid Award - Reserve Relief Canal Shoreline Protection Project

Vince Lucia stated, "Upon the recommendation of legal counsel, administration recommends rejecting all bids as non-responsive and re-bidding the project."

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to reject all bids for the Reserve Relief Canal Shoreline Protection Project upon recommendation of legal counsel and go out to re-bid the project. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Jaclyn Hotard - East Bank Governmental Building

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I wanted to put this item on the agenda it has been a while since I have attended one of the stake holder meetings for the East Bank Governmental Complex and at that meeting there were still some things being worked out. I don't know if they have had any meetings since then but I wanted to get an update I know there were some discussions about the location of the complex, the final plans still hadn't been finalized so I really just wanted to get some updates from administration and then going forward when there are meetings to include the council in that."

Natalie Robottom stated, "First of all we want to apologize I think we were working off of one of the previous agenda's which is why this item wasn't addressed. I think we had two amended agendas and that is why the information that you have doesn't include three of the items but on the East Bank Complex you are right we kind of focused on getting the one that was fully designed and the funding was in place, bid and working and that was the West Bank Courthouse but about three weeks ago we got back together internally with the staff to review some of the designs based on what was approved with the West Bank Complex and based on that information and again it has been a while since we kind of got

back together. We had some other recommendations. It didn't quite match what we thought we had requested so the project manager actually met with Murray again to make sure that everything was covered and it is my understanding that he is coming back to us to make sure that what was requested was actually on the drawings and once everybody's input has been added then we will hold another stake holders meeting but it has been a while. We have been focusing on quite a few other things and then of course getting the one done that was ready but it is my understanding that we are getting closer to being able to have a drawing or conception that we can all actually take a look at again as stake holders."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Have there been any changes to the location of the complex?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Not on our part."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I know there were some discussions but the intention of the administration is to still build the complex right in front of this building?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "That is the one that is currently under design and we also pursued and I think we may be obtaining some capital outlay dollars from this session that would have gone both towards the West Bank Complex, The East Bank Complex and I think River Forest. So those were our request going into the session. We know we had commitments for those. We hadn't received all the information but again we are looking at that. We are kind of refocusing a little bit more on the East Bank again things change after a hurricane and you realize how ill equipped your facility is for hosting a large number of individuals at one time so we are kind of looking at it from a different angle and possibly looking at utilizing some hazard mitigation dollars to harden and prepare the structure. So we are just looking at it from a different view as compared to when we looked at it prior to the storm but at this point the location remains the same. We again went in wanting to make sure that the requests were made from the stake holder meetings were reflected on the drawings. We had some concerns about that they weren't clearly labeled. We are going to get back together but keep in mind and you guys were here too and saw the situation and what we were faced with we may want to look at including some additional things as a result of our experience during Hurricane Isaac so something else to consider."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I agree. If you could just keep us in the loop as to what is going on. I don't remember how long it has been since the last stake holder meeting. It seems like it has been since the new council so it may be beneficial."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually I think they were here but we looked back because we couldn't find the last map or concept so we had to go back in our calendar to find out when the last one was but it has been a while."

Vince Lucia - Authorization to advertise for bids on Materials & Supplies for the Minor Housing Repair Program

Vince Lucia stated, "Administration requests authorization to bid the above items for completion of the Minor Repair Housing Program."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Does this complete that program or is it still an ongoing process?"

Vince Lucia stated, "Yes it is an ongoing process."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So we have to go out and re-bid? In other words we had bid the materials originally, that expired and now we are going out to rebid. I am just asking because I know we have done this in the past?"

Randy Vincent, CAO, stated, "Mrs. Millet actually the first part of the program was bid out but it ended up being a sole source with Home Depot and upon recommendation from our consultant we needed to bid the last 47 out based on the way they said that the program should go so that is the reason why we are going out for bid for the last 47 homes."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So we are going out for the actual not material so much as...."

Randy Vincent stated, "Materials and supplies."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Just materials we still have all the same people on board doing the work and we are not dealing exclusively with Home Depot this time or are we going out?"

Randy Vincent stated, "If they come back with the appropriate pricing and with the back end support like they have been then yes they will be participating."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I was just curious why we were going out for re-bid was my concern. This is to complete the project because the other one expired or those prices are no longer valid?"

Randy Vincent stated, "It didn't expire but upon recommendation from the consultant the last 47 they felt that it would be better off and to stay in compliance that we just bid those out."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I am confused now."

Randy Vincent stated, "When the program was initiated Home Depot had the best pricing and they actually had the best support in-house to handle those project and since it was at a very low amount per home it wasn't necessary to do a complete bid but given the advice that we got from our consultant."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "And that consultant is?"

Randy Vincent stated, "HGA and the consultant is Judy Bordelon but based on the total price as opposed to treating it as individual projects we will be treating it as one lump sum with the 47 homes to complete it."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I understand now thank you."

Councilman Wilson asked, "Can I get a copy of the bid prior to it going out?"

Randy Vincent stated, "Yes we can do that."

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to advertise for the bids on Materials & Supplies for the Minor Housing Repair Program. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Vince Lucia - (Tabled 06-11-13) Authorization to award the contract for Mass Notifications System

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to remove the authorization to award the contract for Mass Notifications System from the table. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Paige Falgoust, Public Information Officer stated, "Administration recommends awarding the contract in the amount of \$27,262 to Blackboard Connect, the firm ranked first by the source selection committee. It will allow the parish to disseminate emergency and non-emergency information to over 46,000 residents via voice call to landlines and cell phones, text messaging, email, and social media in 15 minutes and can distinguish between answering machines/voicemail and live deliveries. It will be used during emergencies, but will be available to all departments to improve internal and external communications. The database is updated monthly to ensure the best numbers are included for every address. Blackboard Connect allows message delivery via web interface, Smartphone app, dialing-in messaging center, or client care help desk. Residents can enter up to 10 phone lines and 4 email addresses. The system also offers a survey system that allows feedback from residents. DuPont will continue to access the system, contributing approximately \$2,500 toward the cost. The parish is also contacting other industry groups and government entities for their participation. The current contract for mass notification is current through 2016. The contract will be forwarded to legal counsel and the Parish Council for review prior to signing."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So you are asking us to award the contract and before we sign it the council will be able to see it?"

Paige Falgoust stated, "Yes."

Councilman Snyder asked, "That amount of \$27,000.00 what does that entail? It is just software?"

Paige Falgoust stated, "It is an all software, web based system so we can access it via the website that is provided or through an app on an iPhone or I pad or by calling in but it allows us to contact our residents through a telephone call, email or text message and it also will update all of our social medial automatically whenever we send that information out."

Councilman Snyder asked, "We have someone that we can go to for technical support and how long will that last?"

Paige Falgoust stated, "We will have 24/7 technical support available to us throughout the life of the contract. Also one other thing I had mentioned that the current contract that is in place for mass notifications we will continue that contract until this system is in place. We are not going to now have a notification system at any period. We will ensure that we can contact our residents should an emergency occur or we need to get information out."

Councilman Snyder asked, "How many people are going to be trained on operating this system?"

Paige Falgoust stated, "We can train as many people as we need to and they will provide the training to us. So I know I will be trained and a representative from every department will be trained. I will make sure I am not the only person manning it."

Natalie Robottom stated, "You know you live and learn and we all thought that we were sending out messages through First Call until we realized that it took 8 hours to reach all of our residents. At that point it is no longer an emergency. So we spent a lot of time trying to find a system that we felt could reach our residents timely. We can section it out as in most cases by roads, by area like we typically do however the first call system is primarily for emergencies. This system is very similar to what the school systems use and a lot of other entities that you are not obligated just to use it for emergencies. If we want to send out calls reminding people about events, if there are things happening on the West Bank and we just wanted to notify the residents it doesn't have to be an emergency so the beauty of this system is that everything is included in the \$27,000.00 whereas with our previous system we paid a flat rate however you were charged by the minutes you used in communicating whereas this system you have an unlimited number of minutes and of course we would like to utilize it for example with our sports program when someone has to call and say all of the games are cancelled. We can do that so the training component is going to be extremely important because we do want our

directors to be able to use it not only for possible services but also dealing with their employees. There may be that only certain groups of employees may need a message and others do not. So it is a system that we think will benefit us in the long run but the key I guess decision maker was that we were not getting out information timely and this system will allow us to get it out to all of our residents in a short amount of time compared to the previous system but we did have discussion with legal counsel about giving ourselves time to overlap and make sure that the system is working properly before discontinuing the other one. So we are going to have an overlap in time just to make sure that we get all of the kinks out because we don't want to be without a system. It is a very good system. We have seen other entities utilize it well and it was time for us to do something with it."

Councilman Wright asked, "Just a quick question, our current data base right now with First Call we will be able to transfer those numbers to the new system and not resigning up people?"

Paige Falgoust stated, "Thank you for asking all the numbers that have been inserted into the First Call system including cell phones that will be able to be exported out and imported into our new system."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Is it my understanding that you will be coming back to this council to cancel our contract with First Call once this new one is in?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes there are obviously some notifications that need to take place and we already notified First Call that we were going out for proposal, they did submit but did not participate in the interview process. They were one of the three that we wanted to interview and of course we will have to come back to the council and I think we may need to address that at that point when you execute fully cancelling the other contract but of course giving them the notification but we didn't want to do it prematurely."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "As much as I did not receive a copy of this contract and I really feel like I am doing my residents a dis-service when I vote for a contract that I have not seen. I am going to vote no and I am going to continue to vote no until I see the contract and have time to peruse it."

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to award the contract for Mass Notifications System to Blackboard Connect in the amount of \$27,262.00. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 2 against (Millet, Wilson) and 1 absent (Perrilloux).

Vince Lucia - Authorization to award the contract for Disaster Debris Monitoring to Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)

Vince Lucia stated, "Administration recommends awarding this contract to SAIC, the number one ranking firm in the RFP process and the current monitoring service provider. This is a pre-positioned contract with

hourly pricing by position that becomes effective upon activation. The existing contract with SAIC expires on August 28, 2013 and the Parish has been pleased with their service, record keeping, documentation, timeliness, pricing and their commitment to hiring local subcontractors. The contract will be forwarded to legal counsel and the Parish Council for review prior to signing."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I think that SAIC did a wonderful job in our Isaac experience last summer however once again I have no contract so I have to vote no."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I mean if we are going to keep going through this let's go through it and ask, not ask tell them that we want copies of everything that is going out for bids, etc. at least a week before it happens."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "We have asked that."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Just for confirmation purposes this is not a bid and you do get everything that goes out for RFP. You get the scoring document, the proposals and the score sheets once they are done unfortunately our attorney is out absent, Mr. Daley has been attempting to assist us and because of the amount of work that we are doing they have been unable to keep up. It is not us. It is the attorney's. Billy is here he works on a different set of contracts for us but at the same time you get the documents, everybody gets the documents. So the contracts can be prepared in advance however we are having a problem with that and I have had that discussion with Mr. Daley who again is working on two of them himself because our attorney is out. Now it is up to the council. We are doing our part. We are working as hard as we can. If we had it we would give it to you. You have every piece of information, the documents are based on what was proposed and what is in the bid specs, we can't change that and it is not like we hide them after. What we said is that we are asking for authorization to enter into a contract, we don't sign them, we don't get them signed. Jeff actually got one today that was approved before again with no changes or corrections. Mr. Daley reviewed it. Again our legal counsel is out absent and when he doesn't submit a contract to us we cannot submit one to you. I think I have asked Mr. Daley to possibly meet with all of the attorneys because we all know that this was a new motion for this administration. Previously it was authorization to enter into a contract, many times they weren't drafted at all at least we have specs, proposals and scopes of work and dollar amounts already in place that we cannot change it is a matter of putting them in the document now until we have an attorney who can produce the documents so that we can get them to you we are going to have this problem but as far as the work we have done it. We have put in a lot of time developing the specifications that you received, you received the scoring, you can get and have access to through laserfische all of the scoring documents and

every proposal so there is nothing secret and the contract is signed we post it online so there are no hidden secrets there is nothing about it other than it is a time delay and our time delay is related to the absence of our legal counsel."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "In this particular case Mrs. Robottom this contract doesn't expire until August 28th."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And the other one until 2016."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "What I am trying to say this one doesn't expire, the current contract is in effect for another two months so time is not the issue on this particular contract."

Natalie Robottom stated, "That is correct."

Councilman Wilson stated, "There shouldn't be an issue on any project. If you are waiting too long to put something out and you are waiting on the attorneys let's start it a little early. If it is going to take the attorneys that long but I think we should have it at least a week ahead of time."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually it is early like Mrs. Millet just said it is not due until August 28th."

Councilman Wilson stated, "This particular issue but I am talking about everyone because this happens meeting after meeting after meeting."

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to award the contract for Disaster Debris Monitoring to Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). The motion passed with 7 yeas, 1 against (Millet) and 1 absent (Perrilloux).

Vince Lucia - Authorization to extend the contract with Royal Engineers & Consultants, LLC for design and management of the Canal Repair, Cleaning and Drainage Project

Vince Lucia stated, "Administration requests authorization to extend this contract by one (1) year to complete the bidding and construction phases of this project. The full application was approved by the Office of Community Development (OCD) on May 28, 2013 and the Environmental Review was submitted for review this week. Upon approval, the bidding process will move forward within the next 2 weeks."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Once again I have no contract in my book I am voting no as well."

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to extend the contract with Royal Engineers & Consultants, LLC for design and management of

the Canal Repair, Cleaning and Drainage Project. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 2 against (Millet & Wilson) and 1 absent (Perrilloux).

Vince Lucia - Authorization to renew the Corporate Endeavor Agreement with the River Parishes Convention, Visitors and Tourist Commission d/b/a River Parishes Tourist Commission

Vince Lucia stated, "Administration requests authorization to renew this agreement for two years as amended. The original agreement began in 2007 and includes management and marketing of the Community Center. Monthly reports detailing activity at the center are submitted to the Parish Administration and were forwarded for your review."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I am sorry I don't have it in front of me but I am sure it is in the administrative report but when is this contract actually expiring? Is it time sensitive?"

Torri Buckles, Director of EDC, stated, "Yes it is it expires on June 28th."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay I was hoping that it wasn't time sensitive to table it to get some more information on it. Do you know why we waited until it was the last minute to put it on the agenda?"

Torri Buckles stated, "We have actually been in the process of having ongoing discussions with the tourist commission because we have been aware of some of the concerns that have been echoed by the council as well as from the community so the conversations have been ongoing. We apologize if the information was submitted to you at a late notice but all of the concerns that have been echoed we made sure to include in the contract."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Do you have a copy of the contract that the commission is going to be using when people are going to be actually renting the building?"

Torri Buckles stated, "I do have it but it is not with me right now."

Councilman Wilson asked, "Do we have someone from St. John the Baptist Parish on this commission?"

Torri Buckles stated, "Yes sir."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "The problem that I have is with the contract that is the problem that is why I said I don't feel comfortable voting on it. The contract that they are using has in it a 30 day out clause and I have talked about this at a few meetings I feel like I am beating a dead horse. If you are trying to book the civic center all of our non-profits, I know we included a rate and we saw the problems that we have had with other groups that have tried to rent the

building but if you are trying to have any event in that center you have to agree to a clause that basically says if a movie comes along we are going to kick you out. Well that isn't practical. If you are booking a wedding or any type of event you cannot do all of that over within 30 days. You can't even relocate that. So that was the concern that I had with the contract and if we are using the same one and if the terms are the same I think we have to I think draw the line in the sand are we going to have a community center that we want our residents to be able to use or are we going to have it available to the movie industry. It doesn't seem like that happened."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I agree with you 100%. I see the representative from the tourist commission is here. I didn't put that clause in there and I have reminded them repeatedly that we are not using that clause but if you rent the facility we are not kicking anyone out. We should make that decision before we choose to rent it out. This agreement doesn't address the contract. It addresses our agreement with the Tourist Commission. The individual contract has been a sticking point and we have added some things to that what we talked about again is that this council and this administration has not decided that the building is for movies only. So if the tourist commission is managing it on our behalf then they need to manage it on our behalf and not block out our residents. We have had numerous discussions about that. I have expressed repeatedly you are not going to book an event and then cancel it. I know it was done that way previously but we are not doing it like that. Wherever those directions came from in our most recent meeting I expressed that again that is not the desire of this administration and council so that is a whole different situation from what we are asking you to approve tonight which is an agreement to continue to allow them to be in the facility. There were some questions as to whether or not they were actually in the facility so we put in there five days a week and the time frame or that they would have to leave notice on the door, their holidays are theirs, there was a term in it I think when it was initially started where it was going to be a \$600.00 a month fee to rent it should the agreement be cancelled. We increased it based on the amount of time that has been in existence to \$800.00 because it was in 2007. So we do have some things that we need to look at with regards to the rental of the facility. This agreement doesn't address the rental. We have tried to find and maybe those of you who have been here for a while, we cannot find the document or the policy that was adopted by the council that sets the rates or the terms anywhere. Your secretaries have looked and we have looked and no one seems to know where that pricing came from. It has been in existence since 2007 or 2008 but we cannot find who set that policy or who drafted it or who typed it. So again that has nothing to do with the agreement. I think we are on the same page with some concerns about the rental, the rates and the process. I actually had a conversation with Mayor Yenni's staff they have a management group that sets the rates and manages their center as well

one of the people in charge will be calling me with some things that they have found that has worked but we are not on the same page and we cannot find a document, it is my understanding that the council sets fees but we cannot find any record of anything that was approved by a council for what the current situation is. We have looked at the document and we are getting some comparisons but we do share the same concerns. I have repeated it over and over again we will not be kicking anybody out of the center should a movie come that our job is to make sure that when we are scheduling that that doesn't become a conflict which is why we had a meeting with a potential production company in preparation for the Andouille Festival as well as the DuMonde Ball and put those things into play up front. So if there is information or language in a document that says that it needs to be removed this council and this administration dictates how that building is run so again this agreement has nothing to do with that agreement. Obviously you guys have copies. You have seen them. We have the same concerns that you have. If you want to look at them and provide some recommendations maybe we can get together. We have met several times. Their administration has changed several times. There is a new group of people in there so we are having to repeat ourselves on that issue but it is not fully worked out but basically we are trying to gather more information to see how this is handled in other facilities."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "I didn't see those most recent contracts and I know the last conversation that I had with Mrs. Buckles about the center in general a couple of weeks ago that was one of the concerns that I brought up and some of the contracts that I did see that the tourist commission has entered into had that clause that a movie theatre would take preference and so what you are saying is that you have instructed them to listen to our wishes and not do it anymore?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "That is correct."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "So they are not going to do that?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "There executive director and all of them."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I understand that one doesn't have to do with the other but in a sense if I am going to renew an agreement with the Commission I want to make sure that they are working in my best interest for the citizens of the parish."

Natalie Robottom stated, "If you look at the amendments and the recommendation was as amended there wasn't a whole lot relative to other events. It was all about movies and productions. We were very clear on we wanted trade shows, we wanted other activities so the amendments to this contract actually spelled out what we expect them to do in addition to movie productions you know what type of advertisements so again all of the wishes and concerns that you had

here were addressed in the amendment in terms of the documents itself. We are looking at that. We are looking at pricing. We want to make it affordable for our residents and possibly have a non-profit rate also in the conversations that I had with Kenner today they have like an off time like if you have your event during the week versus the weekend. They also suggested, not that we have that volume, but that they block off the facility for Mardi Gras Balls and they share the cost. All the balls are held within a two week span so all of the krewe's get together and share the cost of the decorations. So there are things that we can do differently obviously we do have several balls but it could be around graduation rather than balls. So there are things that we can do if we really want to utilize the center and those are the things that we are directing the tourist commission to do on our behalf. So a lot of the amendments put things in there that weren't happening and that was the result of concerns from our residents, you all and from us."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "That was some of the things if you remember when I sent the email to administration having those rates in there for your off peak times so that if the center is empty at least getting something in the slow seasons will be a benefit. Is this a two year contract? Is there a way or any type of I guess you would call it a performance evaluation I would like to get more from the tourist commission. It has always been a big concern of mine the center and what is going on it so I am wondering if we can put something in the contract that we do evaluate this contract?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think there is always a 30 day notice but additionally we are making sure that happens again there was a little transition we upped the amount in the frequency of the reports we were getting from them so this contract actually requires that they submit on a monthly basis the activities whether it is calls or visits so we could forward you those documents on a monthly basis rather than at renewal and you can see what is happening at the center in terms of the contacts or the people coming in for request or coming to visit so on an ongoing basis we would have that information. We were not getting it on that time frame but we agreed in our conversation that monthly would be sufficient so we will begin to start getting a monthly so we will just forward those as well."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Maybe we can even add that in the contract it saying that they will submit a monthly summary of activities to the chief administrative officer or designee, if we could include in that that they will send a copy to the council as well."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We will get that to them. I think they approved theirs but you can maybe go back and amend it at your next meeting."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Mrs. Robottom we have a draft in our booklet. Were there any substantial or any changes made to the contract based on the comments of the council and the administration to the draft that is in our booklet?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes we drafted it and all of the things in red are our additions that I just went over that were based on your concerns, our concerns and our residents and we will add this piece from Ms. Hotard so it has been amended significantly to reflect our wishes."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "That is my concern. The one in our booklet is just the original draft. The changes are not.."

Natalie Robottom stated, "The changes are in it. It is a draft of ours. There is an existing contract. This is our proposed draft contract with all the amendments, it says amended that is what you have in your book."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Then the council had some comments in addition to that that was addressed?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Well actually it was all of our comments. It didn't just happen because it has been ongoing. They are all in the contract."

Councilman Snyder asked, "The red lined document that we got about a week ago, the commission they pretty much went along with everything that we had in there?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I was just informed they actually had a meeting today and they approved everything. I doubt that they will object to the addition of making sure a copy goes to the council but they will probably have to go back at their next meeting and amend the document that they approved but they did approve this document."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I am sure they are aware and I am sure you made them aware of it but the people in the parish paid for that thing and they should have a right to use it just like anyone else and I won't support anything if I can't have a wedding there that won't cost me \$25,000.00 I can't have that. I have a granddaughter and in 10 years she will probably be getting married and I can't afford to pay that. So what I am saying is that let's make sure that our people can afford to use that thing."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think we are all on the same page."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to renew the Corporate Endeavor Agreement with the River Parishes Convention, Visitors and

Tourist Commission d/b/a River Parishes Tourist Commission with the amendment to add the Parish Council as recipients on the monthly report sent to the administration. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Stacey Cador - Authorization to renew Workers' Compensation Insurance (Parish Policy)

Stacey Cador stated, "Administration recommends renewing the existing policy with LWCC through Riverlands Insurance Services, Inc. for an estimated annual premium of \$518,084.00. This rate reflects an increase of 8% which is due largely to increased payroll and claims history. The Policy commences on 7/1/13 and premiums are divided across the Wastewater, Roads and Bridges, Utilities and General Funds."

MOTION: Councilman Wilson moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to renew Workers' Compensation Insurance (Parish Policy). The motion passed with 6 yeas, 2 abstaining (Millet & Hotard) and 1 absent (Perrilloux).

Stacey Cador - Authorization to award the Commercial Property Insurance for Fire Station #51 (521 Hemlock St., LaPlace, LA)

Stacey Cador stated, "Administration recommends awarding the commercial property insurance policy to Canopus US Insurance, Inc. through Riverlands Insurance Services, Inc. The annual premium is \$4,830.00 and includes basic coverage that costs slightly less than the expiring premium of \$4,851.00."

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to award the Commercial Property Insurance for Fire Station #51 (521 Hemlock St., LaPlace, LA). The motion passed with 6 yeas, 2 abstaining (Millet & Hotard) and 1 absent (Perrilloux).

Natalie Robottom - Authorization to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and the St. John Sheriff's Office

Natalie Robottom stated, "This one year agreement for \$150,000 is for the inmate program to provide grass cutting services at various locations in the parish and to assist with special projects, garbage cans, sandbags and barricades. This Parish provides grass cutting equipment and resources needed for special projects. Administration requests approval."

Councilman Madere stated, "First of all I am very happy that we have this contract. Sandbags I know they say like in an emergency but do we have plans to start doing sandbags because during the last storm I wasn't quite satisfied with the sandbag issue because I would like to have them prepared for the elderly and the single parents. We should have some already pre-packed and not wait until an emergency is on the way before we start."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We actually I think we met in October with the Sheriff's Office in planning for hurricane season however the recent purchase of the Capt. Bourgeois property has provided what used to be the sand bagging location. We were originally going to attempt to do it at division but it would be better served in our facility and the public works crews are actually clearing that out. I know there was a drainage issue that needed to be addressed and actually still some equipment in that facility and possibly operations that were going to be moving out so we met with the Sheriff's Office, public works is gathering things together and that will be our operation however we will continue to have sand throughout the parish it makes it easier for those who have that ability. It is closer to them and they don't have to go to a designated site however should one be needed for senior citizens are those without that ability we will have bags at locations as well."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Have all of the little small details been worked out with the sheriff with the equipment needed?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "The agreement has everything that we have worked out."

Councilman Wilson asked, "The locations where grass cutting, etc. is that in the contract also?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes it is in your book."

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and the St. John Sheriff's Office. The motion passed with 7 yeas, 1 abstaining (Hotard) and 1 absent (Perrilloux).

Natalie Robottom - Authorization to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for Edgard/Reserve Ferry Operations

Natalie Robottom stated, "I am extremely disappointed but I am extremely glad to see that all of you are out here most of you know there was a press release sent out by the DOTD Friday with a closure date of June 28th, however this council did approve a road swap agreement in exchange for two months of additional services which is what we agreed to and discussed without being required to commit to taking over the ferry permanently without working through our funding issue as well as our operator issue however our staff has had conversations with a private operator as well as the River Region Transit Authority who may be possibly interested in managing it for us. We were never interested in running the ferry however we are very

interested in continuing to run it. The funding source I think I have a meeting later this week. Again it is an application that everyone feels conceptually will be accepted but it is not done yet. So our legal counsel as well as all of you feel the same way to commit the parish to accept something without having those details worked out would not be prudent on our part. So we are going to continue to work through our agreement with DOTD, they insisted that we approve it all at one time that was not our agreement and we are going to continue to work on something through the end of the month however there are other people that should be helping us with this. We are doing as much as we can with regards to communicating with every entity in place and again I appreciate everyone who is here. I know many of them came to Baton Rouge but what was said to us this past week was not what we sat across the table and agreed to and it is not something that I will put St. John the Baptist Parish on the hook for. So we are going to continue to work extremely hard but I think it is unfair for them to try to hold us at this point in time as we attempt to recover knowing that the fund source is not permanent, knowing that we have absolutely no experience or knowledge about running a ferry within a two month period of time to turn that over and put our residents lives in jeopardy would not be something that neither you or I will accept."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Mrs. Robottom is asking us to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement and she just explained her policy what I am asking is do you want us to enter into this?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "No I did not provide you with a draft because we do not have an agreement on the language."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So would you like to remove this item?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "That is the status right now you can leave it there if we agree on the language by the next council meeting we will move forward with it but our legal counsel revised what they sent to us."

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to table the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for Edgard/Reserve Ferry Operations. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 against (Smith, Snyder), 1 absent (Perrilloux), 1 abstaining (Gauff).

Natalie Robottom - Authorization to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for Hwy. 3223 (0.38 miles), Hwy. 4223 (0.23 miles), and Hwy. 636-1 (0.74 miles)

Councilman Gauff stated, "I would just like some clarity on what we are doing, where we are going, this has been a long uphill battle I know the residents from the West Bank have been fighting with us. This is not a West Bank thing. This is for the parish. It is a parish thing and we need more than just the West Bank fighting with us. We need everyone to call their Senators, Congressmen and let them know that this is not a West Bank thing. This is the St. John the Baptist Parish. I talked to Senators Smith and Brown both of them today and I just want to make sure that we don't close the door to any opportunity that we may have, even though we don't have the expertise to operate a ferry and we don't have the capabilities. It sounds like you are willing to at least listen to them and what sort of agreement they come up with and I guess that is what I want to make sure..

Natalie Robottom stated, "They have no agreement. Their agreement is to turn everything over to us but we are meeting with organizations that can actually run ferries so we would have a third party agreement but we are pursuing someone who can. If I wanted to close it we would have closed it."

Councilman Gauff stated, "That is what I am hoping for that at least we are getting some options because I know that is something that was suggested that we do. We are not in the ferry operating business. So maybe we have to reach out to someone else and get some ideas of what this would cost or how this would affect us. So I guess from Mr. Smith's stand point and my stand point when we were talking before we were saying we just don't want the door to close on us, lose the ferry and we know we will never get it back...

Natalie Robottom stated, "The problem is they are not accepting us entering into the agreement. They are refusing to accept it unless we say we will take their 15 employees to our staff and keep the ferry after September 1st. However we have moved forward Mr. Gauff which is what I said we have talked to RPTC who has experience in transit. We also have a private provider who is interested. Our sticky point is we have not gotten the funding. None of those people are interested if we have no money. So that little detail and again that meeting is scheduled this week which is why they gave us the two months they knew we couldn't get it done by the end of the month so why force us to sign an agreement before the end of the month if you knew we couldn't get it done. So we never did shut a door. We have been working but we knew it would take longer than the amount of time we started with because it is an application process. So without the money there is no private operator, there is no Regional transit group to operate it there is nothing. So we are trying to finalize one the money but also working with these groups to see what it would take for them to operate. Now I am very grateful that our residents and we have said we know we are going to have a rate increase what we have are the cost that were provided to us by the DOTD. I think it is an excellent idea for us to

see exactly what will this cost in a year to operate it. How much can we generate based on a rate increase so if we move past this first year which the funding is only for a year, the funding that is out there if for a year so it will give us an opportunity to see what exactly are the cost because those are numbers on a page and unfortunately with our meetings with the DOTD those numbers change at every meeting. So is that the cost to run the ferry or is it something else and the only way to find out what that would be would be to run it and manage it and see they had concerns well if you go up on your residents they will stop riding well you know we can calculate that versus \$3.50 a gallon or \$2.00 to ride the ferry they might be paying the money to ride the ferry but again they were looking for every reason possible to close it and we have had people say no we will pay more, we know that it has been one dollar and it has been one way but we have to work through that so regardless of what our representatives are saying we are not closing the door but what we are not getting is any help."

Councilman Gauff stated, "All I wanted was clarity. I know you have never shut the door. I just wanted to make sure that we continued to fight and give ourselves some opportunity. I think some numbers that you threw out were great. I know I have heard numbers in New Orleans they have a million people there they have five hundred thousand riders on their ferry. We have 50,000 people here and we have 200,000 riders why would this not be, why doesn't the state see this as critical or vital to our area. These are things that I know you have presented. I know we have all gone to Baton Rouge and fought and talked to them but we need the citizens of St. John the Baptist Parish to continue the fight with us and it is not just the West Bank. We need more people calling and talking and getting in touch with our state and national leaders and let them know that this is more than just a West Bank thing."

Natalie Robottom stated, "It is Mr. Guidry just reminded us and Mr. Madere was there with me if we are not in Baton Rouge on the Saturday of session the door was closed. It was done. So to continue it if we are not in that hallway the last weekend of session the door was shut. There was no action happening for St. John the Baptist Parish. So just be reminded that we have not given up and we have not stopped fighting but it is not a done deal and I said that immediately. It is not done until it is done. There was a concept presented to us. There was no action. There was no work. We are doing the work but the least that you can do is stick to what you agreed to and that is not happening."

Councilman Madere stated, "I support everything that Mrs. Robottom says, I was there, Mr. Gauff was there and like she said if we are not in that hallway on that particular Saturday morning the ferry would have been closed already, it would have been a done deal. Mr. Guidry has also been with us every step of the way and I said this comment after three days of meeting with these individuals you can only enter

into a contract with someone when the other person really wants to be in that contract with you and what the state is demonstrating to us and this council is that they don't really care. They are not interested in entering into this contract. I don't care if we have 5 million dollars on the table they still would have come up with this ridiculous thing at the end. Why would we even make a road swap for two months and then all of a sudden you are going to say if we don't have this deal done by the end of the month then we are going to close the ferry and you know it is going to take a lot longer to put this deal together. We would be crazy to take roads from you and relieve you of some pressure and then cut our neck off and agree to something that we may not be able to fund for the long run. So they are not negotiating with good faith. They are not standing up to everything that they said they were going to do. You say one thing and then you do something else. So I do believe it is time that the citizens and everyone else call these people who are supposed to be representing us on the higher level and make them understand this is not a joke or a game and when you commit to something then you should stand by what you commit to and what they committed to us is not what they are asking us to sign."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "The most unfortunate thing is that when you all left Baton Rouge it was almost as if you had bought two months of time for us to figure this out but in reality you really didn't. It was almost like if you don't know now what you are going to do at the end of two months then we really don't have an agreement and that is trickery at its best and that is the unfortunate part. I know that Mr. Guidry, the council, the residents and the administration is committed to trying to work this thing out. I guess the biggest thing is where do we go from here? What do we do next? If DOTD is not open to the road swap or they are going to force us into this shotgun wedding with the ferry. What are our options?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "As I said our plans did not change. One we have to identify the funding, it was conceptual they were all part of it the funding source was in the meeting with us. He explained to them that this is not a decision I make, I have to put in a request and this has to go up to Washington. We have to justify use for these dollars. Do I think it is possible? Yes I do. Is it automatic? Can I tell you yes right now? No I cannot. So in their own meeting they knew that yes we had a good chance of getting the dollars but the commitment couldn't be made at the table. So the first thing was to bring everybody to the table and out of that meeting and again it is about good faith. When we left Saturday it was told to us 2.3 million dollars, the reason the ferry was closing was because the state didn't have the dollars. So simple residents here well if we get to 2.3 million dollars our ferry should continue to run so we are working on the funding mechanism how do we get that done. The next meeting we go to well no it isn't exactly like that we still don't want the residents. You keep the money and you run the ferry. So obviously it is not about the money. So we walk into

a meeting and you want to give me your 15 employees and operations of the ferry even if I am coming to you with 2.3 million dollars that is a little bit of deception. So that is what we are dealing with then after it was like well maybe and I committed there I said you know I think it is a problem that the organization or agency responsible for transportation in this state would turn over transportation of a ferry to people who are sitting here telling you we have no experience, no expertise and put that on our backs but again I didn't close the door what I said was that there are opportunities, there are private providers, there are other entities and then I watched New Orleans go to RTC again they are not settled but there are opportunities so immediately we contacted the River Region Transit Authority to say are you interested in it, would you be interested in meeting with us yes we have a private operator who is interested. Again we are trying to set up the funding because they are not interested if they are not going to get paid and so until we work through that it is not a done deal but we are working on every one of those things but it is not always on our time table but we are having meetings. We are progressing as if we can work out an agreement with someone to operate and maintain who has the expertise and ability but we are also working to get the funding that is going to be necessary to run the ferry."

Councilman Madere stated, "I think the state needs to understand we are not asking them for money right now. We are asking them for one simple thing and that is time. We need time to get this deal done. That is all we are asking and requesting is for time and they want to push you up against the wall for a decision. All we need is time. The road swap until September 1st to get all of this stuff worked out and if they cannot understand about time how much does it cost them for time? It doesn't cost a lot for time."

Councilman Snyder stated, "If you have kept up with what is going on. I think that the administration and the members of this council that have made the trip up there have done everything they could do and they are still doing that but I am convinced that Baton Rouge just doesn't want a ferry here and I am convinced that our people that represent this area are not doing everything they can to keep that ferry there. I don't know why. It could be that mean streak in me but I don't think our people are doing everything they can to keep that ferry going 2 million dollars is nothing if you have a 54 billion dollar budget but that is where our problem is with those people that represent us. We have senators and representatives up there that have part of this area those are the people that we need to be putting this responsibility on their back. They know we can't run this ferry. Who knows anything about running a ferry in this administration? We cannot do that and to me that was a sucker punch and they did it to us and it was like a slap in the face to this parish and all the effort these people have been putting in in order to get this thing. We need to hold our

representatives and our senators up there responsible. Remember them I am telling you."

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to table the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for Hwy. 3223 (0.38 miles), Hwy. 4223 (0.23 miles), and Hwy. 636-1 (0.74 miles). The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Vince Lucia - Request to advertise for bids for repairs to the Edgard Fire Station #91

Vince Lucia stated, *"Administration recommends removing this item."*

Vince Lucia - Request to advertise for bids for repairs to the Edgard Fire Station #61

Vince Lucia stated, *"Administration recommends removing this item."*

Adjournment

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.