

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010**  
**CHAIR RONNIE SMITH**  
**VICE CHAIR CHERYL MILLET**

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel S. McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ABSENT:** Dale Wolfe & Danny Millet

Councilman Julien led the Prayer. Councilwoman Usry led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Tom Daley & Kerry Brown were present.

Councilman Smith stated, *"As you all may know Mr. Wolfe is presently in the hospital. He is sick. So at this time I would like you to please wish him well and say a prayer for him."*

**Dale Wolfe – Proclamation – Celebration for Clara Barriere**

Natalie Robottom, Parish President, presented Mrs. Clara Toca Barriere with a plaque that read "St. John the Baptist Parish Council along with the Parish President would like to extend a celebration of life of 100 years in honor of Mrs. Clara Toca Barriere born September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1910. A good life of a century." Mrs. Barriere's daughter commented that she had 10 children and 274 grandchildren & great-grandchildren and there are six generations still living.

**PRESIDENTIAL VETO**

Kerry Brown, Legal Counsel, stated, *"We spoke concerning the actual veto. I believe that the council's decision was in fact to not make any decision as it relates to the attempt to override the veto. I believe that Mr. Lee and all of you present have consulted with each other and you were attempting to find out what was the implication of the veto. Well the truth is that with the veto going into effect there was still a one year contract that was in fact voted on and approved for those contractors that you all were concerned about. With that being said, I believe Mr. Wolfe along with each of you have decided that although the charter gives you an opportunity within this meeting or the next meeting to make a decision as to whether you will attempt to override the veto your decision, I believe, has been to allow the parish to move forward to work along with Mrs. Robottom's administration to allow those contractors to handle the grass cutting that they were dealing with and for you to take care of the other responsibilities and*

*business of the parish. So with that being said there really is no decision or no need for you to make any decision as far as to whether you will attempt to override it. There is no need to because with the veto in effect those contractors do have that one year that you have already approved and you can simply move forward with your agenda."*

Councilman Smith stated, "Thank you Mr. Brown. So Mrs. Robottom no more fighting."

### **Consent Agenda**

**Items:** Approval of Minutes June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Regular Meeting

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Regular Meeting. The motion passed with Councilmen Wolfe and Danny Millet absent.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**10-18** (Tabled 06-08-10) An ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinances relative to Residential zoning. (C. Millet)

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I would like to leave this on the table."

**10-14** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance authorizing the issuance of One Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,400,000) of Public Improvement Bonds, Series ST-2010B, of the St. John the Baptist Parish Sales Tax District; prescribing the form, terms and conditions of said Bonds; providing for the payment thereof; awarding said Bonds to the purchaser thereof; authorizing the execution of a Loan and Pledge Agreement and other loan documents with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (the "Department"); providing for the delivery of the Bonds to the Department; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. (P. McTopy)

Hugh Martin, Bond Attorney, stated, "Some of you may not have met Mr. Jason Ackers who has been with our firm for several years now and is also, in spite of his youth, a very experienced bond lawyer. This particular ordinance, as you know, issues bonds in the amount of One Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,400,000) which will finance some improvements to the sewer system and are payable from the sales tax. Mr. Ackers will tell you the skeleton and just what is in here."

Jason Ackers, Bond Attorney, stated, "As we discussed when these came up for initial approval for bond commission purposes, these bonds are being sold to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. They are purchasing at a net rate of 0.45% and then they add a fifty (50) basis point administrative fee on to that. So your net borrowing cost is actually 0.95%. It is also done on a draw down basis which means you are approved to not exceed \$1.4 million but as the engineers go forward and the construction is completed and the construction draws are necessary on the construction contract. DEQ will only advance money at that point, which means that if the total construction cost only ends up being \$1.1 or \$1.2 million, I am just ball parking figures there, but that is all you are going to end up borrowing, that also will serve to lower your borrowing cost. This is a program that really has been

*refined over the last couple of years by DEQ and is being utilized by a number of municipalities, parishes and water and sewer districts throughout the state. So if you have any specific questions about what is contained in the ordinance, we will be glad to answer them."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 10-14. The motion passed with Councilmen Wolfe and Danny Millet absent.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

There were no ordinances to be introduced.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Lee stated, *"At 6:00 PM this evening the finance committee met. We conducted the financial business of St. John the Baptist Parish. At this point I would ask for a motion from one of my fellow council members to ratify the actions taken by the finance committee."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to award the bid for water storage tank repair & rehab – Ruddock Station #3 to Professional Application Services in the amount of \$112,545.00, approved to grant administration authorization to go out for bids for the Airnasium on the West Bank, approved to grant administration authorization to go out for bids for the Balsam Street drainage project, approved to grant administration authorization to renew workman's compensation insurance policy with LWCC from 2010-2011, approved to grant administration authorization to execute a contract with SSA Consultants for the facilitation of the Presidential Advisory Committee (PAC) and strategic planning, and approved to table the recommendation for Code Enforcement Officer. The motion passed with Councilmen Wolfe and Danny Millet absent.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

**Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters**

There were no personnel matters at this time.

**Ronnie Smith – Update on Riverlands Pumping Station**

Rick Shread, Shread-Kuyrkendall, stated, *"On this particular project, we have completed the design for the project and have submitted it to the parish engineer, Mr. Savoie, for his review and approval. Hopefully if he has any comments or questions then we can incorporate them in this project. I would expect that we would be able to advertise sometime in the month of July. We have spoken to Mr. Savoie in regards to it. He indicated that we will be getting the plans back shortly. He has completed his review. So I would anticipate that sometime in the month of July we will be coming back to the council for authorization to advertise."*

Councilman Smith asked, *"Can you give me a ball park figure of when the construction probably would begin, just a ball park figure?"*

Rick Shread, stated, "Well if we advertise in July with a thirty (30) day advertisement that would put us into August by the time contracts are awarded probably in September. October 1<sup>st</sup> would probably be the best that you can expect."

Councilman Smith stated, "I just wanted the public to hear that so that they had an idea of, we have been waiting for forty (40) years to have this project done, so I wanted to let them know it is right around the corner to get fixed."

Rick Shread, stated, "We will do whatever we can to make it happen."

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Haston Lewis/Dale Wolfe – (Carry Over) Edgard Water Plant – Walkway improvements to new pumping station**

Pat McTopy stated, "As I advised at the last council meeting, I have been in contact with the engineer for the Edgard Water treatment plant clarifier job. He already has that job under design. I have asked him to submit an amendment to his existing contract to provide design services for the walkway. He has done that. We forwarded it to legal counsel and to our program manager engineer to review and the expectation is that we will have it on the next agenda to sign that amendment. As far as the funding I want to tell you that the funding for that water portion of the bond issue. I believe it was eight (8) million dollars, is just about budgeted. We have had a number of jobs that came in low fortunately. That allowed us to expend funds on other needed projects, such as the \$40,000.00 in water filters for the NANO system that you all approved recently that had to be changed out. The system fund could not afford that so it was paid from the capital projects fund. We had expenses from the 2004 water bond issue that had to be paid most notably the retainage on the NANO filtration construction job and the ground storage tank. We made payments for the 2004 project out of the 2009. The department of health and hospitals has requested, not requested, demanded in their administrative order certain things to be done at the NANO site. We have had to do that. There were some nominal expenses, capital expenses. So what I am telling the council tonight is that there are funds to complete our projects but it is tight. The rabbits that we have been pulling out of the hats to accommodate all of these additional jobs and all of this additional work, the hat is just about empty of rabbits. Mr. Lewis in answer to your question, we feel at this point we can fund that. If we can't and it is the desire of the council we can appropriate funds from the economic development account."

Councilman Lewis asked, "Well Pat what do you need me to do?"

Pat McTopy stated, "Nothing tonight, the amendment to the engineering contract has been prepared. It is under review. The expectation is that we will have it on the next agenda. One bright cloud as you know we applied for a community development block grant in the amount of \$800,000.00 for improvements at the Edgard Water Plant. If that project is funded it will free up substantial dollars to be used for additional work in the parish on the water system. They are going to start evaluating and ranking those applications next month. I am fairly

*optimistic, let's put it that way."*

Councilman Lewis stated, *"Just do my walkway and put the money back when you get it."*

**Ronnie Smith – (Carry Over) Acadian Ambulance**

Councilman Smith asked that his item be removed from the agenda.

**Dale Wolfe – Alfred Songy**

Mr. Songy was not present at the meeting.

Councilman Smith asked, *"There is one other thing that I would like to find out about from administration under department and engineer reports. We have a contract that was signed in reference to getting our ditches cleaned. Again we are in hurricane season. I know we asked about this two or three weeks ago at the last meeting. Are these contractors working yet? Has the process begun? What is going on?"*

Mrs. Robottom stated, *"Mr. Bailey in the public works department, turned in a list of our hot spots and projects for our contract. I think it is my understanding that one PO has been issued and we are looking at additional work that may have to accompany that contractor from possibly another source but I think we have several purchase orders ready to go awaiting that full list from public works. I think Mrs. Mercadel met with public works today and that should be completed if not today by tomorrow."*

Councilman Smith asked, *"So my question I guess is then, if we have PO's that are waiting to be given out and we know some of the areas why aren't they just working now?"*

Mrs. Robottom stated, *"They were all submitted at one time. Not necessarily in a priority, which depleted the budget for the projects and there was some additional work that needed to be done as well. So we asked for a pairing of the work that needed to be done to precede the drainage work, as well as the drainage PO's. We haven't received that yet. So as soon as we get that from public works which we are anticipating. Mrs. Mercadel has met a couple of days with them. We anticipate moving forward with several of those projects."*

Councilman Smith asked, *"So do we have any idea about when we are going to move forward? I am concerned because hurricane season is upon us."*

Mrs. Robottom stated, *"We are concerned as well. We have made this request a number of times. We are finalizing that list to make sure that the areas that will provide the greatest impact are done first. We suspect that will be ready tomorrow."*

Councilman Julien stated, *"I just wanted to let the residents of District III know that I have met with administration and they are saying that they are going to start some work. I am assuming early next week in District III to alleviate some of the flooding when we do get rain. So I just wanted to let everyone know that administration is working with us in that particular area."*

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "When you mentioned the budget, the amount for the drainage maintenance, I know the number has changed. Do you know what is still left in the budget for this particular item?"

Mrs. Robottom stated, "Some of those funds were expended. What we are looking at doing is looking at what we have left. That is why it is important to receive those purchase orders with all the requirements so if there is a need to transfer some additional funding we will know what that number is. So at this point it is my understanding that about half of the \$500,000.00 that was budgeted or at least \$200,000.00 of that was already spent. So there is about 200 and something left but with all the work that is needed we are going to require more funds than that."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "What do you mean the \$500,000.00 that was budgeted? We didn't budget that project for \$500,000.00."

Mrs. Robottom stated, "It wasn't that project. It was drainage projects. It was my understanding within the drainage budget it was about \$500,000.00 not necessarily expended to that one contractor but for drainage projects."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "No we had, prior to the transfer of \$500,000.00, close to one million dollars that was supposed to be designated just for this drainage maintenance and then the council actually transferred another half a million dollars into the public works budget to supplement that \$750,000.00. So it should be over a million and not just \$200,000.00."

Mrs. Robottom stated, "That is not the number that we discussed. If there is anybody here who can address that a million has never been discussed since we have been here. So if either one of the finance representatives could address that. That is not the number that we are working with right now."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "When I say a million I mean in addition, that is inclusive with the \$500,000.00 that the council transferred to public works to go along with the monies that were already projected."

Mr. McTopy stated, "You are right Ms. Hotard. There are a number of pots that are available for funding the drainage work. The first and historic normal pot is the annual public works budget that pays the salaries and etc. That budget had several hundred thousand dollars a few hundred thousand or so has been spent already. What was submitted by public works, if all of that work had been done, would have exceeded that line item. So Mrs. Robottom is right. She is prioritizing the work such that the highest priority work is done before we run out. The second pot of money is the bond fund for drainage. I believe there was 9.7 million dollars in the drainage bond account. As you know there are four capital projects, big projects, the Riverlands project that we spoke of earlier, St. Joan of Arc/Persimmon Street Project, the Homewood Project and of course Reserve by St. Peter's. Those are the four bid projects. In addition to that, you are right, we allocated dollars for canal cleaning and etc. Those dollars, under the contract with RamJ, those capital dollars, they cannot participate under that contract for those capital dollars. They can however, any jobs that are bid for drainage they are eligible to bid those jobs."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "So where does that still leave the monies that are allocated to do the drainage maintenance, not those separate capital outlay projects like Balsam Street was a separate project?"

Mr. McTopy stated, "There are funds available in the capital account to do drainage absolutely and we are working closely with FEMA..."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "How much are the funds that are available?"

Mr. McTopy stated, "Presently, I hate to throw a number out, but I want to say about \$600,000.00 or so."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Okay is that inclusive of the \$500,000.00 that we transferred or does that not include that?"

Mr. McTopy stated, "That would be what is left in the bond account for drainage."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "So when the council transferred, a couple of months ago, a half of a million dollars into public works you are saying that that money has already been spent?"

Mr. McTopy stated, "I don't know that we transferred any money this year."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "We did we transferred about a half of a million dollars in after we had met with the prior administration, that was yourself, the intention was to transfer that money to have additional monies for the drainage maintenance because some of the other projects were costing a little bit more and we knew that hurricane season was coming and we wanted to make sure that the canals were cleaned and that was a priority. So we transferred additional money to supplement that 700 or so thousand that is where I am coming up with the one point something million. So I just want to make sure that we transferred money with an intention and that the money, you are not just telling me that it has been spent or it is somewhere that we don't know when we have areas that all of our districts we have areas that are going to see some problems if we get heavy rains. We see them now because the canal and drainage maintenance isn't happening. So I want to be clear tonight as to where we are and where we are going."

Mr. McTopy stated, "I am going to ask Vince, was it 200 that we had in there originally and we bumped it up another 500 to a total of 700?"

Vince Lucia, Finance Manager, stated, "Yes it is at 700,000.00 presently and we bumped it up 500,000.00 a couple of months ago."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "We had 700 or so thousand dollars when we met with you a few months ago. We transferred an additional 500. It wasn't 200 something thousand and then transfer another 500 to equal 700. That was not the case."

Mr. McTopy stated, "I believe that is the case in the public works budget. I think we started out with 200 and added an additional 500 for a total of 700. I will be happy to do research and verify that."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "So has any of the \$500,000.00 that we transferred been spent yet?"

Mr. McTopy stated, "Yes absolutely. It was spent in January and February when we had the various contractors doing..."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "No, no, no we transferred that money after we had that work going on."

Mr. McTopy stated, "I understand but when it was put into public works line item budget. The line item was changed from 200 plus the 500 for a total of 700. So we had 700. Out of the 700 we spent some amount, I don't have the April budget report with me, but we spent some hundreds of thousands of dollars already."

Councilman Smith stated, "I hate to interrupt Ms. Hotard but it is impossible to spend money in January and February if I didn't transfer it to you until probably April."

Mr. McTopy stated, "The money that was spent in January and February was from the initial allocation of the 200 thousand."

Councilman Smith stated, "Right, so that means the 500 thousand that was transferred should still be in the budget unless you used some of it and if you did use some of it I would like to know what it was used on. That is the question."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "The 500 plus the money that was already in the bond issue to fund this project. We know that we can't put projects out for bid without having any money for them. The project was already out for bid long before we transferred the \$500,000.00. You can't advertise a project without a dedicated funding source. So there was money in the bond issue to fund this project and we transferred an additional 500,000.00 long after we had already had some of the local contractors doing some of the work. So there is some missing dollars here. I would like to know also out of the 500,000.00 if we haven't started any of the drainage maintenance then that 500,000.00 should still be there in addition to what was in the bond issue for the contract. All of that money should still be there. I would like to get a report on that tomorrow please."

Mr. McTopy stated, "Yes."

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Pat McTopy – Resolution – R10-26 – Authorization for check signers**

Pat McTopy stated, "We are requesting that the council adopt a resolution authorizing the parish president, Mrs. Robottom, the chief administrative assistant, Mrs. Mercadel and the parish financial advisor, myself, authorization to sign checks on behalf of the parish."

**MOTION:** Councilman Julien moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to approve Resolution R10-26. A resolution naming the check signers for the Parish of St. John the Baptist as follows: **Parish President** – Natalie Robottom; **Chief Administrative Officer** – Marie Brown-Mercadel; **Chief Financial Officer** – Pat McTopy. The motion passed

with Councilmen Wolfe and Danny Millet absent.

**Natalie Robottom – Resolution – R10-27 – A resolution in support of construction of sand barriers to protect Louisiana’s Shoreline and Marshes from Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill**

Natalie Robottom stated, *“A similar resolution was passed by the regional planning commission. They ask that all of our member parishes pass the same resolution in support of completing the sand barriers to help with the oil spill. The resolution is in the booklet. The request is very simple. It is a resolution in support of the sand barriers being built along the shore to help with the oil spill.”*

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to approve Resolution R10-27. A resolution in support of construction of sand barriers to protect Louisiana’s Shoreline and Marshes from Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. **WHEREAS**, on May 11, 2010, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal submitted an emergency authorization request to the United States Army Corps of Engineers and to the United States Coast Guard to allow the state to immediately begin constructing offshore sand barriers as part of the State’s Incident Action Plan to protect the state’s shoreline and marshes from further devastating effects resulting from the Deepwater Horizon Catastrophe of April 20, 2010 and the subsequent Gulf of Mexico oil spill; and **WHEREAS**, heavy oil is now reported to have reached and affected long stretches of the shoreline of Southeast Louisiana, contaminating beaches and inundating marshes, impacting many communities whose economies and livelihoods are dependent on fishing, recreational and natural bounty of our coast; and **WHEREAS**, the natural hurricane protection provided by the ecologically sensitive coastal wetlands and marshes of Southeast Louisiana is now in danger of being severely compromised due to oil contamination; and **WHEREAS**, the State of Louisiana must act immediately to protect the wetlands and coastlines that are home to over 400 species of wildlife and provide the nation with more than a quarter of the lower 48 states’ fisheries, many of which are already negatively impacted by contamination from the Gulf of Mexico oil spill and are in danger of long term destruction if emergency measures are not taken. **Now, therefore, be it resolved** by St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that this council hereby requests the United State Army Corps of Engineers to issue the emergency permit necessary to allow the immediate construction of sand barriers to protect the shorelines, wetlands, and coastal communities of South Louisiana from further impact resulting from the devastating impacts of the Deepwater Horizon catastrophe. **Furthermore**, that this Council authorizes that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to Col. Alvin Lee, District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Post Office Box 60267, New Orleans, Louisiana 70160. The motion passed with Councilmen Wolfe and Danny Millet absent.

**Elois Joseph – Resolution – R10-25 – A resolution in support of the St. John the Baptist Parish Department of Health and Human Services to the United States Department of Agriculture for funding under Section 533 housing preservation grant program in St. John the Baptist Parish**

Natalie Robottom stated, *“On Ms. Joseph’s behalf, we are requesting approval of the resolution in support of the grant application. It is one of the requirements of the federal government to receive that*

grant."

**MOTION:** Councilman Julien moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to approve Resolution R10-25. A resolution in support of the St. John the Baptist Parish Department of Health and Human Services to the United States Department of Agriculture for funding under Section 533 housing preservation grant program in St. John the Baptist Parish. **WHEREAS**, St. John The Baptist Parish Department Of Health And Human Services is submitting an application for 2009-2010 Funds from the United States Department Of Agriculture; and **WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Agriculture supports a resolution from the local governing body; and **WHEREAS**, upon funding, the program will improve the quality of substandard housing by repairing and rehabilitating homes of very low-income homeowners of St. John the Baptist Parish. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the members of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council do hereby approve and support the St. John Parish application for 2009-2010 USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation Program. The motion passed with Councilmen Wolfe and Danny Millet absent.

**Natalie Robottom – Resolution – R10-28 – A resolution for inclusion of the St. John East Bank Mississippi River Multi-Use Trail – Phase II in the DOTD Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP)**

Natalie Robottom stated, *"We submitted a correction to that. What we really need is authorization to sign the agreement with DOTD. The council previously approved that resolution to include this phase in the TEP. Mr. David Dupre, with Meyers Engineers, is here. What we need tonight is authorization to sign the agreement to move forward with this project."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve Resolution R10-28. A resolution for inclusion of the St. John East Bank Mississippi River Multi-Use Trail – Phase II in the DOTD Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP). **WHEREAS**, DOTD through the Transportation Enhancement Program, has agreed to fund up to \$946,000 for the construction of the St. John East Bank Mississippi River Multi-Use Trail – Phase II. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council of St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana, acting as governing authority of said Parish: **SECTION 1.** That St. John the Baptist Parish assumes full responsibility for the required local match. **SECTION 2.** That St. John the Baptist Parish assumes full responsibility for design engineering, construction administration, inspection and testing. **SECTION 3.** That St. John the Baptist Parish assumes full responsibility for managing and maintaining the project. **SECTION 4.** That St. John the Baptist Parish assumes full responsibility for any legal liability incurred as a result of the project. **SECTION 5.** That Natalie Robottom, Parish President, be named Signatory Party. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Transportation Enhancement Program Manager, Road Design, Attn: Ms. Valerie Horton, P.O. Box 94245, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245. The motion passed with Councilmen Wolfe and Danny Millet absent.

**CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS**

Councilman Lewis asked, *"I would like to ask the administration to work*

on that polling place in the Wallace area. It has been in the Edgard courthouse for the last three or four years and the people have a long way to go. They were supposed to fix a bathroom or something. I am sure all that has to be fixed by now. The past administration had promised to work on it for me and nothing ever happened."

Mrs. Robottom asked, "That's to move it back?"

Councilman Lewis stated, "Yes to the Wallace site. Those people have to travel about twelve to fifteen miles to go vote. That is the original place where it was."

Councilman Julien stated, "I would just like to remind everyone that Mr. Wolfe is in the hospital. Hurry up and get well Dale because I know he is watching the meeting tonight."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Same thing I would like to wish him a speedy recovery. I hope there is something more interesting on TV right now and he isn't watching this but I hope he gets well soon none the less."

Councilwoman Usry stated, "Tonight on TNT Memphis Beat will be airing at 9:00 so if you want to see the local area on TV tune in at 9:00 on TNT. Thanks."

Councilman Lee stated, "Just ditto with Mr. Wolfe. We saw him, myself and Mr. Lewis this morning. He was looking good and a comment because I know he is watching this meeting. Mr. Wolfe, leave those pretty nurses alone. Get well and come on back to work."

#### **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Natalie Robottom stated, "Mr. Wolfe from me and my administration we are actually hoping that you recover very quickly and you are back here to stop fighting with us. I would also like to wish all the fathers, grandfathers and godfathers a belated Happy Father's Day. It was a beautiful day. As we mentioned earlier our Presidential Advisory Committee held its first meeting and I want to thank everyone for coming out and attending. We do want to make it clear that the appointments are unpaid positions. These are volunteers. We appreciate your time. It is going to be somewhat time consuming over the next sixty days but we think it is very important that we have your input not only about what is happening now but where St. John wants to be in the next five to ten years. These meetings will be open to the public. We have information on our website about the upcoming meetings and their location. We will also have a list of the scheduled meetings with our receptionist here. So please feel free to give them a call at 652-9569. We do want your input. This is a parish plan. It is a president advisory committee but we want input from the entire parish. We appreciate the council members that were able to come and if you are not able to come on a regular basis if you would like to send a designee we would be happy to work with them. The groundbreaking ceremony for the Regala Gym will be this Monday June 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM at the Regala Park site. We look forward to this new addition to the department of recreation and parks. I am sure many of you are ready for it to take place so please come out and join us then. Administration distribution day at the summer feeding program is tomorrow. Me and my

staff will be serving food to our youngsters and the adults who are participating in the program. It is at Emily C. Watkins tomorrow from 11:30 until 12:30. If anybody wants to come out and help we welcome you but we will be there supporting the health and human services department in that program. There are three remaining dates for the flood insurance and hurricane preparedness workshops. They are June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 until 8:00 in the Central Library on Hwy. 51 and July 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 until 8:00 at the West Bank Community Center. Representatives from the national flood insurance program will be on site to answer any questions you may have. St. John's game plan for hurricane season is being finalized. We want to remind all of you to do the same thing put together an emergency kit, make plans to evacuate and stay informed with the weather and any emergency alerts. The evacuation guides are out and about. We have them in the Percy Hebert Building, the West Bank Courthouse, they are in all parish libraries and at Home Depot. Please pick one up. They are helpful tips within them as well as the evacuation route. St. John Parish is partnering with the department of social services to use the phoenix registration system for evacuation and registration of our residents during a declared disaster. The system provides capability to track our residents from their departure from our parish pick up points to their arrival at the designated shelters. We have completed agreements with the city of Monroe and West Carol Parish as our point to point sheltering. There was a visit made by our staff to the Monroe site to make sure that it was up to par for our residents. Evacuation registration points will be located on both sides of the river and details specific to that will be available on July 15<sup>th</sup>. The Louisiana federation of families for children's mental health and the region 3 office of mental health children's division are hosting caring for kids by networking service providers and educating families this Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at the Quality Inn in LaPlace. It is from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM and it will be a day of networking, information sharing and parent education. Please call 1-800-224-4010 for more information and that is on the government channel. The kick off and registration for our cool zone program, I think Mr. Smith you had initiated some concern about our older adults. It will kick off this Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 until 4:00 at the Council on Aging building on Regala Road. The program offers a place for our older adults to escape that mid day heat and it also gives them an opportunity to leave their homes and reduce their air conditioning bills by being in cooler zones. We want to thank our health and human services department and our council on aging on partnering together to establish our first cool zone and transportation will be provided for those residents who need it. We are working at additional sites around the parish to provide that service to all of our older residents. Moving on to the following week, the annual veteran's luncheon is scheduled for Friday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 AM at St. Peter's School. Secretary Elaine Carson of the Louisiana Department of Veteran Affairs will be the guest speaker and the young marines and members of the rotary club will be there to assist with the luncheon. All veterans and their spouses are invited to attend and an invitation is not needed. Also our 9<sup>th</sup> annual Independence Day fireworks celebration is Friday night, the same night. The gatherings are at the West Bank Courthouse in Edgard and the St. Peter's parking lot in Reserve. Prior to the 9:00 fireworks show there will be a flag raising ceremony at both locations as well as a balloon release. The fireworks will be launched at 9:00 from the barge on the Mississippi River. We anticipate about a twenty minute show so please come out and join us. A

*reminder that July 5<sup>th</sup> is a holiday and all of our offices will be closed. In the mean time please have a safe and a happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July."*

*Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I just told Ronnie and I know we have mentioned it before about having security in this building because when you go into the Edgard Courthouse they have metal detectors and security and we don't have that here. Sometimes we do have a lot of people here and I was just thinking about safety and maybe that is something that we need to look at."*

*Mrs. Robottom stated, "We do have someone that sits by the front door."*

There was no executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

Property/Casualty Insurance Agent – 1) Claims, any/all property, casualty, and Workman comp claims 2) Claims, procedures and disposition 3) Coverage's, any/all material changes

Cable Franchise Agreement

Any and all pending legal matters

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:06 PM, Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilmen Wolfe and Danny Millet absent.

/s/Ronnie Smith  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary