

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011**  
**CHAIR RONNIE SMITH**  
**VICE CHAIR CHERYL MILLET**

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ABSENT:** Haston Lewis

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

Legal Counsels Kerry Brown and Tom Daley were present.

**Cheryl Millet – Recognition – LaPlace Elementary School Tigerettes dance team – won the competition to perform at the Capital One Pregame show in Orlando**

Councilwoman Millet introduced the members of the LaPlace Elementary School Tigerettes. They practice and perform at numerous events throughout the year and the team attends the UDA Camp in the summer. They perform at LaPlace Elementary football and basketball games as well as performing in local parish events such as the St. John Andouille Festival, the New Orleans Christmas in the Oaks, the Norco Christmas Parade, River Parish Mardi Gras Parades and a pre-game performance at the New Orleans Arena football. Members of the team that attended the UDA Camp this summer received numerous awards. The team earned many ribbons for drill down competitions, were awarded an overall team spirit trophy, placed third for their home routine in the junior division and were awarded a superior trophy for their combined team score from their individual evaluation performances which made them eligible to participate and join the universal dance association team at the Capital One Pre-bowl game show on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, in Orlando, Florida. So our girls are going on a trip to Florida because they won the competition. Councilman Smith invited the girls to perform at an ESJ Basketball game half-time. They also asked for support due to the cost of the upcoming trip.

**Ronnie Smith/Peter Landry – Presentation – Ethanol Presentation**

Pete Landry, 39 Holly Drive, stated, *"I am a 41 year resident of LaPlace and a graduate from Nicholls State University with a degree in Chemistry. I worked 32+ years in the River Parishes mostly in the oil*

and petrochemical industry. I retired about ten years ago. I became interested in Ethanol gasoline when it first began to appear in our area. I am an avid fisherman and when I first saw it when I went to fill up my boat tank I was a little apprehensive so I contacted the company that repairs my engine if I need service and asked them if that was compatible with my engine. He said yes it was but he advised me not to use it and he began to explain to me the significant amount of damaged engines that he had to repair because of the use of ethanol gasoline. Well to make a long story short we are very fortunate. I was able to partner with Louisiana Sportsman in the fall of 2009 and they asked me to help them develop a website for Louisiana Sportsman Magazine. People kept asking for more information, articles, a list of ethanol free gasoline stations and it grew so fast that their webmaster was no longer able to keep up with the work, what I was doing, plus his regular line of work. So we agreed it was in our mutual best interest that I form my own website, which I did and we launched it earlier this year. On there I had over 1,022 stations in all 64 parishes of this state that had ethanol free gas stations until one of the refineries decided, which was the one major remaining refinery in Louisiana that produced ethanol free gas decided on June 21<sup>st</sup> that they were going to discontinue it. Since that I have had to remove 54 stations off of the list that their distributor could no longer get ethanol free gas for them. Well that is bad enough. People are having trouble with lawn mowers. In spring of 2009 a lobby group, a group of fifty ethanol plants in the Midwest called Go with Entergy petitioned the EPA to up the ethanol content of motor fuels from 10% to 15%. They are required to post that on the federal register and allow 90 days for comments. They were inundated with comments that they extended the comment period another 60 days, they had a quarter of a million comments, the majority of them negative, even from the engine manufacturers, from the automobile manufacturers, from the outboard manufacturers. The meat processors even were upset about it because it is consuming more corn which goes into production of ethanol. Well the EPA did testing on automobiles. In December of 2010 they approved 15% ethanol gasoline for 2007 and newer cars and like trucks and in January of this year they approved it for 2001 through 2006 passenger cars and like trucks. Now the interesting part of all this is, let me read to you what they say in their announcement, that is the scary part, what vehicles and engines may not use E15 as it will be called, all motorcycles, all vehicles with heavy duty engines such as school busses, transit busses, delivery trucks, all off road vehicles such as boats, snowmobiles, 4-wheelers, jet-skies, all engines and all lawn equipment such as lawn mowers and chain saws. All 2000 and older model cars and like trucks and I added in there because it is implied but they didn't say it all gasoline powered home generators. So the issue that we have here is that for the past 3-4 years all the major refineries in the state of Louisiana and across the country for the most part have been processing all of their gasoline as ethanol gas, now we couldn't quite figure out why they were doing that because every year in the month of January the EPA issues a memorandum to refineries which they posted on their website and the federal registry tells them how much of their total gasoline that they have to blend that year as ethanol gas. This year the number is 8%. They are only required to blend by law 8 gallons out of 100 but they are choosing to blend it all. They won't tell you this but we suspect the reason is that since 2004 the federal government and us people the tax payers have been giving refineries .45 cents a gallon tax credit to blend ethanol gas. So if you are the CEO of Exxon Motor

and you say well I am only required to blend 8 gallons out of a 100 but they are going to give me .45 cents a gallon I will blend it all. Now that subsidy expires December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. It was supposed to expire last year on December 31<sup>st</sup> but as part of the Bush tax cut extension it was agreed that they would keep that subsidy for one more year. Now the US Senate at the end of June, beginning of July voted to not extend that tax credit. The House hasn't voted on it yet. Our Congressman Jeff Landry from New Iberia told me that they are going to vote on it as soon as they adjourn from congress. We don't know what the refineries will do with this subsidy being eliminated but if all of the gasoline stations that we have today that are selling ethanol gas now if later this year they start turning over and receiving 15% into next year and if they all convert to 15% all of the equipment that I just described to you will be unusable. That is a little bit scary isn't it? Now look at the label I gave you, this is the last piece in the EPA puzzle before they could launch the 15% ethanol gasoline. They just approved this in late July and the scary part is that it says use only in 2000 and newer passenger vehicles and flex vehicles. The flex vehicles are designed to operate on 85% ethanol 15% gasoline. They were four stations in Louisiana that sell that gas two in Shreveport, one in Baton Rouge and one in Lake Charles. I talked to the distributor in Lake Charles and asked him about 3-4 months ago and I asked him how are you doing with that E85 fuel? He said I had that station open 6 months and I sold 100 gallons of gas. He said people fill up one time and when they realize they lose 40% gas mileage on it, they don't come back. The bottom part of this is scary. If you read it carefully it says don't use in other vehicles, boats or gasoline powered equipment it may cause damage and is prohibited by federal law. Now that is a CYA statement obviously so that if someone burns up their engine they can't sue the federal government but a lot of people don't understand these marine engines are not cheap now a days. What I am asking the council to do today is Tangipahoa Parish, one of the council members over there is a friend of mine and he is an avid reader of my website and he is also a distributor in partnership with another company out of Baton Rouge and he had their council pass a resolution which is similar. I expanded on the draft. They sent it to all other 63 parishes throughout the state. I took the liberty of expanding on that one a little bit and particularly the paragraph says about the hurricanes, it says in light of the fact that in South Louisiana we are in a hurricane prone area and we tend to lose power whenever a hurricane hits the area and many homeowners now have gasoline powered home generators, the EPA didn't expressly mention gasoline powered home generators but the engines that power those are the same engines that power lawn mowers. So that is what I am asking you all to do here today. Please consider this resolution so that we can send it to our US Congressional delegation, our Louisiana delegation and ask them for help. I testified before the Louisiana Agricultural Committee in 2010 at their hearing to try to ask them to help us with this and warned them that this would be coming and they took no action. I testified this year before the Legislative Commerce Committee and again pleaded with them that we needed some help that this was forthcoming but they again chose to take no action. So we are asking you, there has already been four other parishes that I am aware of that have passed this resolution and St. Charles Parish called me last week and wanted some information which I sent to them. They are going to consider it also. That summarizes it and if you have any questions I will be happy to try to answer them."

Councilman Smith stated, "Mrs. Robottom do you mind if I read this letter sent to us from Marathon in regards to this. I am asking because it was headlined to you. When Marathon found out that Mr. Landry was coming to speak on this issue they sent the council, well it was actually written to Mrs. Robottom it says: 'Dear Natalie: Thank you for sharing information on the Tangipahoa Parish resolution that urges Congress to require refineries to supply non-ethanol gasoline. While likely well intended, the resolution is in conflict with federal renewable-fuel requirements. Moreover, it would increase fuel-supply complexity and has the potential to increase fuel costs for consumers. Marathon Petroleum Company (MPC) urges St. John the Baptist Parish Council not to adopt a similar resolution. As you may be aware, the Energy Independence and Security Act enacted by Congress in 2007 requires petroleum refiners and importers to assure that nearly 14 billion gallons of renewable fuels are blended into the nation's transportation fuels this year (2011), and that at least 36 billion gallons of renewable fuels are blended annually by 2022. As a direct result of this federal mandate, the U.S. is rapidly approaching the day when nearly all gasoline contains 10% ethanol (a blend commonly referred to as "E10"). Most gasoline-powered vehicles and engines can operate effectively on E10; however, E10 may not be appropriate for certain applications, such as marine, vintage vehicles and some small engines. Consumers should consult the vehicle or engine owner's manual to determine if E10 is approved for use. MPC recognizes that E10 is not appropriate for all engines. Accordingly, when the company converts to an E10 slate of fuels in a market, we also offer a mid-grade gasoline (90 octane, minimum) that is not blended with ethanol. It is intended for those applications where the consumer believes an ethanol-blended fuel is not appropriate. In many markets, one or more other suppliers may also offer a non-ethanol fuel, depending on consumer demand. Imposing an additional mandate requiring all refineries to supply gasoline without ethanol would further complicate fuel-supply logistics and impose additional, unnecessary costs. MPC opposes adoption of any resolution that could lead to additional fuel mandates. Instead, we believe free-market competition will best serve the needs of consumers. Sincerely, A.J. Anderson, Manager, Louisiana Refining Division.' The reason that I read this letter was and I am sorry Mr. Landry I thought it was actually in support but as we see it is not. The reason I read this letter was because I wanted to make sure that we have an opportunity to adopt the resolution that Mr. Landry is requesting and I wanted to make sure that the public and all of our council members had evidence or information from both sides of the table. So like I said I just wanted to make sure that all the information was out there."

Pete Landry stated, "He is very correct in indicating to quote the Act what he didn't say was that they are only required to sell 8 gallons out of 100. That was carefully omitted. I spoke with their customer relations manager out of Finley, Ohio when they discontinued selling ethanol free gasoline here and they responded to our concerns by saying that they will continue to offer recreational fuel out of Garyville. That is all it said was recreational fuel. So I asked if he could define what recreational fuel is for me he said it is ethanol free gas but it is a 90 octane, he said we will make it available upon request. So the distributor would have to make a special request. The interesting point here is that we already have been paying for regular non-ethanol gasoline between .10 and .20 cents a gallon higher than 10% ethanol. This fuel that he is talking about here would be .30 to .40

*cents higher than regular grade 87 ethanol gasoline. So he is not doing us any favors believe me. There are only four small refineries in Louisiana today that are still blending ethanol free gas two in St. Bernard Parish, Port Allen and a small refinery in Crotch Springs that is it. So if they decide they are going to start blending all ethanol gasoline we are going to be in serious trouble despite what Marathon says."*

**Ronnie Smith/Kevin Hull – Candidate State Representative House District 81**

Mr. Hull wasn't present at the meeting.

**Natalie Robottom/State Representative Elton Aubert – Candidate for State Senate District 2**

State Representative Elton Aubert was present. He is the state representative from district 58. In 1992 he was elected to the St. James Parish Council where he served for 16 years, 6 of those years as the Council Chairman. When term limits hit Baton Rouge, he ran for the House of Representatives and was elected. He ran 6 times and has won 5 elections which tells him that people trust him. He started on a local level. He knows the needs of local government. He works with local government at the Capital. He served 10 years on the Police Jury Association executive board where he traveled throughout the state comparing the needs of rural areas, areas along the river, to the metropolitan areas and there is a big difference. He is announcing his candidacy for State Senate tonight. He served 24 years on the Vacherie Fire Department. He retired from Dow Chemical in February of this year to devote himself to serve in the legislature. He was fortunate enough to work in industry for 33 years. If elected he will be a full time Senator and be available everyday to address the people's needs. He thanked the council for their time and hopes that on October 22<sup>nd</sup> people will consider his qualifications, experience and willingness to serve the people.

**Natalie Robottom – Presentation – Paige Braud & Dana Milioto, Vials of Life**

Paige Braud, Public Information Officer, stated, *"We just wanted to present the Vials of Life to you guys and to the residents. It is basically an envelope that can be stuck to a refrigerator. It comes with a magnet on the back. It is simply a medical information form that our residents can fill out. All pharmacies invite residents who need assistance in filling out the form to visit them. We are going to be sending out volunteers if anybody needs help in the community to fill them out. It is basically their medical information and history. Once it is filled out it can be placed inside the envelope and place on the refrigerator. It also comes with a sticker. We encourage residents who have a vial of life to please put the sticker in the entrance of your home on a window or on a door so that the emergency responders know that in this home there is a vial of life. This can be very beneficial to all residents as if they are non-responsive or if they are alone the emergency responders will have all of their information right away and this will help in their treatment on the way to the hospital or wherever they may be. We have also encouraged our residents to put a copy in their car or take it with them in the event of a hurricane*

evacuation. There are many things that can go on. It is highly stressed during those events and sometimes it is helpful to have all medical information on you during those times. We do have the vials of life in our office. We have sent them to our libraries and many churches have requested them so they are at many churches and if any churches do not have them and would like them they can visit our office and grab some. We also have some available at the meeting tonight and also on the desk in the lobby. So if anybody has any questions or if they are interested in receiving some vials of life please do not hesitate to call our office. Thank you."

### **Ronnie Smith/Michael Bell – Candidate for State Senate District 2**

Michael Bell was present. He is a candidate for State Senate District 2 which is a newly created seat which covers parts of 8 parishes including St. John. He is an attorney. He is a Christian man, a husband, a father and a hard worker. He is currently employed as staff attorney for the Senate and has worked there since 2000. He has drafted hundreds of bills related to economic development, crime prevention districts, you name it and he has done it. He has also worked in private practice with offices in Louisiana, Connecticut, Georgia and Ohio. His main purpose is public financing. He does municipal bond work. He has also worked as an assistant District Attorney in Baton Rouge where he prosecuted both misdemeanors and felonies. He wants to run for the senate because he loves our community. He believes when young people can make Louisiana proud without having to leave the state to go look for a job and do well. He asked that everyone look at his credentials and give him an opportunity. He believes that we need someone with experience in the senate. He has done it all in the senate and is just asking to be promoted from staff to senate.

### **Consent Agenda**

**Items:** Approval of Minutes August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Regular Meeting

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to approve the amended consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Regular Meeting; Addition – Councilman-at-Large, Div. A – Recreation Board appointment – Ed Morris. The motion passed with 7 yeas, 1 absent (Lewis) and 1 abstaining (Lee).

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

**11-18** (Carried Over 05/24/11) an ordinance to provide for sale of adjudicated properties. (N. Robottom)

The administration requests removal of this item from the agenda at this time.

### **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

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

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Lee stated, *"The finance committee met at 6:00 this evening. We had ten business items. I would ask at this time that one of my fellow council members make a motion to approve the actions taken by the council in the finance committee."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Lewis & Cheryl Millet) and 2 abstaining (Lee, Hotard).

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

There were no department/engineer reports.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Natalie Robottom/Hugh Martin – Resolution R11-29 – A resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of not exceeding Eleven Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$11,200,000) of General Obligation Refunding Bonds of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana; making application to the State Bond Commission for approval of said Refunding Bonds; and providing for other matters in connection therewith**

Natalie Robottom, Parish President, stated, *"Administration requests approval of this resolution to begin the process of refinancing up to \$11,200,000 in General Obligation Bonds from the 2002 and 2003 bond issues. These bonds helped fund road and drainage projects, new parks and construction of parish buildings. Completion of this process will result in an estimated savings to the parish of \$704,218.32 over the next ten years."*

Hugh Martin, Bond Attorney, stated, *"You will recall several months ago we asked you to adopt a resolution authorizing the refunding of an issue of bond series 2002 which is part of the issue that is before you here tonight. We got the state bond commission approval and are ready to go forward with that refunding when the problem developed in congress and the budget matters and debt limit. As a result of all of that the government shut down the window on furnishing special types of obligations for use in refunding where you have to put in escrow investment in US Government Bonds to pay off the old bonds when you issue these new ones where not available so there was a delay there. Since then the window has reopened now since the compromise was made in Washington and because of the delay now it can also be combined with the 2002 issue and there are some savings in the economy by combining the two to do it. The result of which is that if you went forward after paying all of your expenses that Mrs. Robottom said we expect that you will save approximately \$704,000.00 in interest as a result of the*

refund."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Resolution R11-29. A resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of not exceeding Eleven Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$11,200,000) of General Obligation Refunding Bonds of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana; making application to the State Bond Commission for approval of said Refunding Bonds; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, Section 33 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, Sub-Part A, Part III, Chapter 4, of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority, the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana (the "Issuer") has heretofore issued \$4,440,000 of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2002 (the "Series 2002 Bonds") and \$7,955,000 of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2003 (the "Series 2003 Bonds"); and WHEREAS, in order to provide debt service savings to the Issuer, the Issuer desires to refund all or any portion of the Series 2002 Bonds and the Series 2003 Bonds, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 14-A of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority (the "Act"), through the issuance of its refunding bonds; and WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, and subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission, the Issuer desires to accomplish the refunding by authorizing the issuance of not exceeding Eleven Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$11,200,000) of its General Obligation Refunding Bonds (the "Refunding Bonds"), to be payable from unlimited ad valorem taxes; and WHEREAS, the Issuer desires to make formal application to the State Bond Commission for approval of the issuance of the Refunding Bonds. The motion passed with Councilman Lewis absent.

**Ronnie Smith – Resolution R11-30 – A resolution in support of allowing consumers choice of Ethanol Gasoline or Non-Ethanol Gasoline**

The Resolution failed for lack of a motion.

**MOTION:** Councilman moved and Councilman seconded the motion to approve Resolution R11-30. A Resolution in support of allowing consumers choice of Ethanol Gasoline or Non-Ethanol Gasoline  
**WHEREAS**, the need for conventional gasoline (non-ethanol blend) is vital to the effective and efficient operation of water craft, 2000 and older passenger vehicles and light trucks, motorcycles, four wheelers, jet skis, chain saws and lawn and garden equipment, and; **WHEREAS**, St. John the Baptist Parish and many other parishes in our great State have a large number of waterways with significant numbers or recreational, commercial and leisure watercrafts that use these waterways, and; **WHEREAS**, a large number of our residents maintain their own lawns and many others also work in the lawn care and landscaping industry and have older power equipment, and; **WHEREAS**, south Louisiana is vulnerable to hurricanes and subsequent power losses and many home owners own gasoline powered home generators for use during power outages, and; **WHEREAS**, ethanol gasoline in many cases can be harmful to the operation of new and older outboard marine engines, power equipment and older underground storage tanks, in turn putting an undue hardship on small family owned businesses and consumers, and; **WHEREAS**, the Federal Environmental Agency (EPA) recently approved 15% ethanol gasoline and by it's own directive this new fuel cannot be used in model year 2000

and older passenger cars and light trucks, vehicles with heavy duty engines like buses and delivery vans, motorcycles, marine engines, four wheelers, jet skis, chain saws and all lawn and garden tools (and gasoline powered home generators), and; **WHEREAS**, if all current gas stations selling 10% ethanol gasoline convert to the new 15% ethanol gasoline blend, effectively making all the above listed equipment unusable if non ethanol gasoline is not readily available in all communities of our great State. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the St. John the Baptist Parish Council petitions our United States and Louisiana Congressional Delegations to take appropriate action to have non-ethanol gasoline available from all refineries throughout the State giving small business owners and consumers a choice between conventional gasoline and ethanol gasoline, at a competitive price. No motion was made, resolution failed.

**Theresa Rodgers – Authorization to sign a contract time extension with Buchart Horn, Inc. for Airline Hwy intersection improvements**

Theresa Rodgers stated, *“Administration requests authorization to sign a time extension to the contract with Buchart Horn, Inc. for Airline Hwy. intersection improvements. This 180-day, no cost time extension is required to complete the design and necessary review procedures in accordance with LADOTD standards. The extension is through March 11, 2012.”*

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to sign a contract time extension with Buchart Horn, Inc. for Airline Hwy. Intersection improvements. The motion passed with Councilman Lewis absent.

**Theresa Rodgers/Kathy Gilmore – Authorization to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement by and between St. John Parish and South Central Planning and Development Commission for administration of the Department of Homeland Security/GOHSEP Grant Number 2008-GE-T8-0013**

Theresa Rodgers stated, *“Administration requests authorization to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the South Central Planning and Development Commission for administration of the Department of Homeland Security/GOHSEP Grant - Number 2008-GE-T8-0013. This will transfer ownership of the property purchased through the Department of Homeland Security/GOHSEP to the parish of St. John the Baptist at no cost to the parish.”*

**MOTION:** Councilman Julien moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement by and between St. John Parish and South Central Planning and Development Commission for administration of the Department of Homeland Security/GOHSEP Grant Number 2008-GE-T8-0013. The motion passed with Councilman Lewis absent.

**Theresa Rodgers/Kathy Gilmore – Authorization to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement by and between St. John Parish and St. John Parish's Sheriff's Office for Motorola Radios for the 40<sup>th</sup> JDC Juvenile Probation Officers**

Theresa Rodgers stated, *“Administration requests authorization to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the St. John Parish*

*Sheriff's Office for Motorola Radios for the 40<sup>th</sup> JDC Juvenile Probation Officers. This agreement allows the Communications Division of the Sheriff's Office to assist with operation and maintenance of the new radios."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement by and between St. John Parish and St. John Parish's Sheriff's Office for Motorola Radios for the 40<sup>th</sup> JDC Juvenile Probation Officers. The motion passed with 7 yeas, 1 abstaining (Lee) and 1 absent (Lewis).

**Theresa Rodgers – Resolution R11-36 – A resolution allowing United Healthcare to release large claims diagnosis information to the Parish's Agent of Record**

*Theresa Rodgers stated, "Administration recommends approval of this resolution allowing United Healthcare to release large claims diagnosis data to the Parish's Agent of Record. This data will subsequently be disclosed to other carriers during the Parish's healthcare procurement process. The resolution provides for the protection of individually identifiable health information and ensures confidentiality consistent with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy regulations. United Healthcare has confirmed that the attached document is the standard format used for all Plan Sponsors and is the only format acceptable for release."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to approve Resolution R11-36. A resolution authorizing an employer certification to United Healthcare for Release of Diagnosis **WHEREAS**, St. John Parish Government Group Health Plan (the "Plan") is fully insured group health plan, the benefits under which are provided through a fully-insured arrangement with United Healthcare; and, **WHEREAS**, the Plan is a "group health plan" for purposes of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and the regulations there under; and **WHEREAS**, the Plan has requested disclosure of diagnosis information related to each large loss claim reported; and, **WHEREAS**, this information is to be disclosed only at renewal of the group and for the specific health care operations purpose of renewal or replacement of a contract of health insurance; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council that the Plan hereby certifies to United Healthcare that the disclosure of the requested diagnosis information is to be made solely to Agent or Broker of Record for the Plan. The Plan represents that such Agent or Broker has agreed not to share this information with Plan Sponsor. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 1 absent (Lewis) and 3 abstaining (Lee, Hotard, Cheryl Millet).

**Theresa Rodgers – Resolution R11-33 – A resolution authorizing St. John Parish Council to submit an application to the Delta Regional Authority for grant funds**

*Theresa Rodgers stated, "Administration requests authorization to submit an application to the Delta Regional Authority for grant funds in the sum of \$150,000. These funds paired with funds from a public and private partnership will be used to improve sewerage treatment for the businesses along Airport Road."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve Resolution R11-33. A Resolution authorizing the application for a grant from the Delta Regional Authority. **WHEREAS**, St. John the Baptist Parish needs to improve sewerage treatment in the Airport Road area to serve a growing number of public facilities and private industries, and; **WHEREAS**, the Delta Regional Authority provides funding assistance for projects that create and/or retain jobs and stimulate economic growth, and; **WHEREAS**, the Delta Regional Authority requires an authorizing resolution as part of its pre-application process. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the St. John the Baptist Parish Council does hereby authorize the Parish President to execute any and all documents in connection with a pre-application to the Delta Regional Authority for construction of wastewater treatment improvements to serve the Airport Road area in the amount of \$150,000. The motion passed with 7 yeas, 1 absent (Lewis) and 1 abstaining (Lee).

**Theresa Rodgers – Resolution R11-34 – A resolution authorization St. John Parish Council to submit an application to the United States Department of Agriculture for grant funds**

Theresa Rodgers stated, *“Administration requests authorization to submit an application to the United States Department of Agriculture for funds in the amount of \$100,000 under section 533 of the Housing Preservation Grant Program. This funding will improve the quality of substandard housing of low-income homeowners of St. John Parish by repairing and rehabilitating the interior of their homes.”*

Councilwoman Millet asked, *“Will this be handled the same way the other one that we had done earlier this year was, this is for the interior correct?”*

Theresa Rodgers stated, *“Yes as opposed to the earlier grant program which was for the exterior, this one is targeted towards the interior. There will be a similar screening process in terms of determining eligible individuals with selection of the homes and following that will be inspection and a determination of needed construction. The other one was specific to Gustav/Ike damage. This one is not.”*

Councilman Julien asked, *“Who is responsible for this? Was this from our grant writer?”*

Theresa Rodgers stated, *“It was our grant writer, Myra Valentine.”*

**MOTION:** Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Resolution R11-34. 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 2011-2012 Funds from the United States Department Of Agriculture in the amount of \$100, 00 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 2011-2012 USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation Program. The motion passed with Councilman Lewis absent.

**Theresa Rodgers – Resolution R11-35 – A resolution authorizing St. John Parish to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State Office of Community Development for a grant in the sum of \$174,326.00 for the purpose of developing a comprehensive development management system and existing elements as well as elements included in the Phase IV Comprehensive Planning Project to support the Parish’s Comprehensive Resiliency Program**

Theresa Rodgers stated, *“Administration requests authorization to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Office of Community Development to administer grant funds for the Comprehensive Resiliency Program.”*

**MOTION:** Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve Resolution R11-35. A resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish Council to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration, Office of Community Development, Disaster Recovery Unit **WHEREAS**, St. John the Baptist Parish Council was awarded a grant in the sum of \$174,326.00 by the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration, Office of Community Development (OCD), Disaster Recovery Unit, for the purpose of developing a comprehensive development management system to support the Parish’s Comprehensive Plan and existing elements as well as elements included in the Phase IV Comprehensive Planning project, and; **WHEREAS**, OCD requires a resolution by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, as governing authority, authorizing the Parish President to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Council and OCD. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council that the Parish President is hereby authorized and empowered to execute the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Parish and OCD pertaining to the Comprehensive Resiliency Program. The motion passed with 7 yeas, 1 absent (Lewis) and 1 abstaining (Lee).

**CORRESPONDANCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS**

Councilman Julien stated, *“I want to congratulate Reverend Behring and Reverend Anderson on the functions that they held in District III. I think it was a good program and that the community needed it. I want to encourage them to keep up the good work. We are also having a ground breaking in Homewood on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September at 10:00 AM. So I wanted to notify all of the residents. Thank you.”*

Councilman Smith stated, *“I would like to commend Mr. Larry Snyder in District VI. He got together with some friends and had a clean up project in Cambridge Subdivision this weekend. I want to thank him for doing that and commend him for a job well done.”*

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *“At the last council meeting this council was asked to vote on a complicated issue that involved numerous local contractors. In my opinion more time was needed to evaluate all aspects of the issue therefore I chose to air on the side of caution however I*

do look forward to revisiting this important issue in the near future."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "This week the residents did receive voter registration cards. Please do not put them away without looking at them. There is very valuable information on them. The districts have been redrawn. You may be going to a different polling place so please check it out before you put it in the cabinet."

Councilman Julien excused himself from the meeting.

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

Natalie Robottom stated, "In every district you should have received your voter registration cards. District 1-3 will be voting at the Wallace Station. It is ready be prepared for that but there are quite a few changes in the district lines. So again we encourage all of you to review those cards prior to the election to avoid as much confusion as possible. I would also like to remind everyone that there are heat advisories out until tomorrow at 6:00. It is extremely warm outside with the heat index of 102 to possibly 115. So we are encouraging all of our employees as well as any employees working outside to drink plenty of water, wear light clothing and of course take frequent breaks. This is from the national weather service. It is a precautionary matter and again we want to encourage people to take necessary precautions. Also please check on your neighbors and elderly in the event that their air conditionings are working and we encourage them to visit some of our public spaces that have air conditioning. I attended a White House business council round table in Houma today with our EDC director, Julia Remondet and Eliza Eugene in working with our small businesses locally. It was a very small group but a good group. In attendance was the federal co chair for the DRA which we approved a resolution tonight for application and I feel very comfortable that we will be receiving that. We also applied for a USDA grant and one of those individuals was there and again very supportive of the things that we are doing. Representatives from EPA and the USDA Rural Development were also on hand. The purpose of the round table was to discuss the issues that we are having with jobs, job creations, the problems that we are having with businesses and really to hear from some of the business owners and the local elected officials in terms of what we saw as some of the barriers or some of the concerns to improve the situation. It is going to be ongoing. I think we made some good contacts on both ends and of course we have friends there that are looking forward to working with St. John. A reminder to all of our employees there is an ethics training tomorrow at 3:30 at the Civic Center. This is the second meeting. It is mandatory for our employees but of course we welcome all elected officials to attend. As mentioned earlier the Greenwood Bridge Project is completed that official opening will be this Thursday at 10:00. Our next brown bag lunch is Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> in the Garyville library at 11:00. This is an opportunity for all the residents in that area to meet me and my staff, to receive updates on things that are happening, share questions, concerns, recommendations and we will be there for about an hour and a half. Following that on September 7<sup>th</sup> we will be at the Reserve library at 11:30 that is a Wednesday, with the same thing in mind. Just a reminder too that Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 is the 2011 Legislative wrap up. It will be at Ormond Plantation in Destrehan and Senator Chaisson will be the guess speaker. The Department of Parks and Recreation is

hosting a 6 week fall instructional baseball camp for 7 to 12 year olds, registration began yesterday and will end September 12<sup>th</sup> with the program beginning the 12<sup>th</sup> at a cost of \$25.00 for more information we encourage you to call the recreation department, Mr. Errol Manual at 985-652-9569. Many of you should have received the annual progress report in the mail, we also have some here, in our libraries and in some of the coffee shops throughout the parish. We encourage all of you to take the time to review the many projects, activities and services that are being conducted in the parish. There is construction underway in Reserve associated with the Reserve drainage project on Railroad Avenue between Terrio Drive and N.W. 2<sup>nd</sup>. The road will be closed in this area through Friday. Again we want to apologize for the inconvenience but this work is necessary for us to complete the project. I would like to congratulate Mrs. Melissa Roussel who recently opened her gift boutique at 191 Central Avenue in Reserve, Dashingirlz. Construction of the Mississippi River multi-use trail is underway and should be completed in three months. Phase I extends from the St. Charles Parish line to Walnut Street and we are looking forward to continuing that along the levee. We would also like to congratulate Miss Chrissie Carter the 2011 St. John Sugar Queen and we wish her the best of luck at the state pageant in September. Again we want to remind all of our residents that we are in the middle of hurricane season to sign up for our enews update to receive updates by email, to sign up for the first call emergency notification system on our website to allow us to stay in touch with you should there be the need during an emergency. A reminder that all of our offices will be closed September 5<sup>th</sup> for Labor Day and on behalf of my administration and myself we would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Labor Day."

There was no executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

Cable Franchise Agreement

Any and all pending legal matters

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:36 PM, Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilmen Lewis & Julien absent.

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COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

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Council Secretary

