

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JUNE 28th, 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, June 28th, 2011, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Haston Lewis, Councilman District I, 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

ABSENT: Steve Lee, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B, Darnel C. Usry, Councilwoman District V

Councilman Julien led the Prayer and Councilman Millet led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Barry Landry was present.

Charles Julien – Recognition – STORM Baseball – 2011 USSSA 13AA South Louisiana State Championship

Councilman Julien and Parish President Natalie Robottom introduced and awarded the STORM Baseball – 2011 USSSA 13AA South Louisiana State Championship with a certificate of recognition for winning the 13AA South Louisiana State Championship. The coaches and players thanked the council and the administration for this recognition.

Natalie Robottom – Presentation – William Brent, III – Chief Financial Officer – Teche Action Board Inc.

William Brent, III, Chief Financial Officer – Teche Action Board, Inc. commented, Teche Action Clinic is a private not-for-profit federally qualified health center, committed to providing comprehensive, safe, quality health care to residents of St. Mary, Terrebonne, St. John, St. James and Assumption Parishes and surrounding areas. There are no income, age or residency requirements for services. It is their policy to provide all patients with quality medical care at reasonable fees. They can assist you with Medicaid, LaCHIP, LaMOMs and MSP, Medicare Part D applications. All locations are Certified Medicaid Enrollment Centers. They also offer sliding fee discounts based on the family income and size for the uninsured and underinsured and those experiencing financial difficulties. They strive to provide all of their patients with the best quality care possible and take great pride in the education, training, and capabilities of each staff member. The services that they offer included primary care services, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Family Medicine, General Dentistry, Dental Hygiene Services, Specialty Referrals, Family Planning, Health maintenance, Medication Management, Immunizations, School and sports physicals,

behavioral/mental health services, WIC, KidMed, Pharmacy Services, Diagnostic Services and Chronic disease management of Diabetes. He commented how thankful they are to be here and how they have applied to the state for more funds in an attempt to keep the clinic in Reserve open all week instead of just three days. The need is so great in the parish for these services. Councilwoman Millet asked if they did physicals. Mr. Brent commented yes they do physicals for whatever the patient's income determines that they pay. They are very happy to be in St. John Parish and wish for a much longer and brighter future here.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes June 14th, 2011, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval – Block Party – Mary Smith – Garyville – 7-23-11

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes June 14th, 2011, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval – Block Party – Mary Smith – Garyville – 7-23-11 – 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry and Councilman Lee absent.

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 that this item be carried over again.

11-20 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to re-zone a portion of Proposed Parcel A-1A of the Bienvenu Estate of which the frontage on River Road will include an additional 52.861 square feet of 1.214 acres of Commercial-1 being rezoned from Residential-1 (PZR-1004) (N. Robottom)

Angelic Sutherland stated, *"This re-zoning was unanimously approved by the Planning Commission on May 16th, 2011 and administration also recommends approval."*

Mike Carter, LaPlace, asked, *"Where is this property located?"*

Mike Henderson, Planning & Zoning, stated, *"The property is located on the River Road in Reserve. It is part of the commercial property by Stell Furniture."*

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-20. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry & Councilman Lee absent.

11-21 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to re-zone a portion of the Fredrick Brown Parcel, the Celine Gendron Keating Tract (Lot 24) & the Clovis St. Cyr or assigns tract (Lot 25) from R-1 to C-1 (PZR-1003) (N. Robottom)

Angelic Sutherland stated, *"This re-zoning was also approved by the Planning Commission on May 16th, 2011 and administration recommends approval."*

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-21. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry & Councilman Lee absent.

11-22 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending ordinance 10-40 relative to the Annual Operating Budgets for the St. John the Baptist Parish Utility System Fund and Sales Tax District for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2011 (N. Robottom)

Natalie Robottom, Parish President, stated, *"For most of you or many of you, we tried to list the amendments in the order that they occurred in the ordinance. These are amendments that represent changes that occurred from the adoption of the budget until now and then looking at trends and what we anticipate will take place between now and the end of the year and it applies specifically to the funds references. Administration recommends approval."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-22. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry & Councilman Lee absent.

11-23 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending ordinance 10-33 relative to the Annual Operating Budgets for the St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund, Juvenile Detention, Recreation, Economic Development, Public Works, Communication District, Airport, Public Safety, Criminal Court and Garyville Volunteer Fire Department for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2011 (N. Robottom)

Natalie Robottom stated, *"These are similar amendments to the ones mentioned previously but they apply to the specific funds listed in this ordinance. They are listed out with the exact amounts and what they are for and we are requesting approval."*

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-23. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry & Councilman Lee absent.

11-24 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, Section 14-26, as follows: Grass cutting fees (N. Robottom)

Natalie Robottom stated, *"This ordinance is specific to the fees for grass cutting violations that are managed through the office of Planning & Zoning. In discussing and looking at grass cutting for the year we reviewed this amendment and realized that the rate had not been changed since 1987. It was .01 cent per square foot. After asking Mr. Henderson to review what other parishes were doing and what would be a reasonable and customary rate in 2011, the recommendation is .03 cents per square foot. This will obviously be managed through the Planning & Zoning office and it is specific to violation cuts. Administration is requesting approval."*

Councilman Julien asked, *"We definitely want the individuals who do this work for the parish to be compensated but the issues that I have been having in my district is that they haven't been doing a thorough*

job in cutting the yards or the properties. They come in and basically come with a machine to say that they have done the work but it isn't quality work at this point. I just got a complaint last night about this very thing. So I think we need to look at how the system evaluates those individuals or the people who do this work for us. We don't want to just pay them and then they half way do a job."

Natalie Robottom stated, *"That is a management issue and as we are reviewing this entire process. The expectation is that the work will be performed that is requested and to the expectation of the parish."*

Councilman Julien asked, *"Do we have an inspector on the jobs?"*

Mike Henderson stated, *"Mr. Julien with each violation that we write we take a picture of the violation before and after. Certainly we try our best to ensure that a good job is done. We even pay a little extra for trash to be picked up. Of course we have to have a process and a way of identifying the trash and the number of bags and loads and those kinds of things to make it equitable but we do have before and after pictures. If there are some yards or individual projects that we do miss or a councilman sees that we are not up to par please let us know we will go back to those contractors. Mrs. Robottom has made it clear through the process that we expect things to be done correctly and we are doing our best to ensure that they are."*

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-24. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry & Councilman Lee absent.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

11-25 An ordinance amending St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, Section 111-57, as follows: Administrative re-subdivision of land (N. Robottom)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Julien stated, *"Today at 6:15 we conducted the financial business of the parish in the finance committee meeting. At this point I would ask that the council make a motion to approve those minutes of the meeting."*

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to grant administration authorization to award the low bid for the Homewood Drainage Basin Project to Civil Construction Contractors, LLC of Hahnville, LA in the amount of \$1,072,471.26, for the base bid and two alternates, approved to grant administration authorization to award the low bid for the Edgard Water Treatment Plant facility walkway to Cecil D. Gassiott, LLC of Alexandria, LA in the amount of \$102,516.00, approved to grant administration authorization to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the River Parishes Convention, Visitors, and Tourist Commission d/b/a River Parishes Tourist Commission, and approved to grant administration authorization to renew with Parish's Workers' Compensation insurance with Louisiana Worker's Compensation Corporation (LWCC) through Riverlands Insurance

Company of LaPlace. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry & Councilman Lee absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Charles Julien/Davillier Law Group – (Carry Over 06-14-11) Enter into contract for small business, local business/diversity program

Councilman Julien asked that this item be carried over.

Haston Lewis – (Carry Over 6-14-11) Update on West Bank Farmer's Market

Councilman Lewis stated, *"I had a chance to meet with Mr. Fletcher from the state with Mrs. Remondet last Tuesday. I think we got some good results but we are going to wait until all the papers are signed and everything is in place then we will be able to bring you all up to date on exactly where we are because there is still some paperwork that they have to do with the state and the federal."*

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Natalie Robottom – R11-27 – A Resolution approving the renewal contract with Guidry Associates LLC, as the Legislative Liaison for the River Region Caucus, under a two year agreement

Natalie Robottom stated, *"The last meeting of the River Region Caucus was in April and at that point the caucus voted to renew the agreement with Guidry and Associates for a two year term. At this point there is a resolution requesting ratification of the renewal of the contract with Guidry and Associates and I guess over the last session you may have been receiving the reports which detailed what was happening during the session that I thought was very helpful. It was something that we had discussed previously and I look forward to a long and continued relationship. Expect those reports to decrease because the activity will decrease but they have been very beneficial and we look forward to continuing."*

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to approve Resolution R11-27. A Resolution the renewal contract with Guidry Associates LLC, as the Legislative Liaison for the River Region Caucus, under a two year agreement **WHEREAS**, on April 11, 2011, the Members of the River Region Caucus approved a new two year contract with Guidry Associates LLC as the Legislative Liaison; and, **WHEREAS**, the Members of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council agree that the services received from a Legislative Liaison have benefited the Parish. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT WE**, the members of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, do hereby approve the renewal contract with Guidry Associates LLC, as the Legislative Liaison for the River Region Caucus, under a two year agreement. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry & Councilman Lee absent.

Natalie Robottom – R11-28 – A Resolution authorizing the Parish President to execute the contract with Barriere Construction Co., LLC

in the amount of \$411,016.20 for the St. John East Bank Mississippi River Multi-Use Trail Phase I Project

Natalie Robottom stated, "Administration requests authorization to execute a contract with Barriere Construction Co., LLC, in the amount of \$411,016.20 for construction of the St. John East Bank Mississippi River Multi-Use Trail, Phase I Project. The bid process was conducted by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development as the sponsor of the project."

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Resolution R11-28. A Resolution authorizing the Parish President to execute the contract with Barriere Construction Co., LLC in the amount of \$411,016.20 for the St. John East Bank Mississippi River Multi-Use Trail Phase I Project. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT WE,** the members of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, do hereby authorize the Parish President to execute the contract with Barriere Construction Co., LLC in the amount of \$411,016.20 for the St. John East Bank Mississippi River Multi-Use Trail Phase I Project. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry & Councilman Lee absent.

CORRESPONDANCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Julien stated, "Friday we held a candle light vigil. We had good participation. It was to denounce the violence that has been going on in the community and in the parish. I want to thank everyone for coming out. I want to thank administration for the help that they gave. They did an excellent job. Paige you did a great job and I want to thank you for all that you have done. The other thing that we have is a community clean up. It will be a volunteer clean up in the Reserve development because we are in disarray right now. We are asking that volunteers from the community come out in the Reserve development which is on 13th Street. We will do that on the 7th at 9:00 that morning. If you can or whenever you can come that day again we want to encourage everyone to come out to help to make St. John a better place."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe 4th of July. If you do plan on using fireworks please use them responsibly."

Councilman Smith stated, "I have to echo the sentiments of Ms. Hotard and wish everybody a happy 4th of July and Mr. Julien I want to commend you for putting the candle light vigil on and organizing it. It was well organized. As you said it was well attended and well represented. Thank you for looking out for our constituents and our people. Administration also I would like to say thank you for what you did for the vigil. Please have a safe 4th of July."

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Natalie Robottom stated, "Again from both of you to Mr. Julien it was his brain child and he had an idea and a vision for what he wanted and Paige was a great asset in helping him carry that out but it wasn't about the production it was about the intention. I think the point was made very clear and we are very glad that attendance was what it was and that he took the effort to organize and think of that as a project."

So we will definitely be there with you on July 7th because we support those efforts in all areas. We were part of the one in the LaPlace Housing Project and we would like to be there for Reserve as well. Just a reminder, our annual veteran's luncheon and Independence Day celebration along the river is this weekend. All veterans and their spouses are invited to the luncheon it is this Friday, July 1st, at 11:00. There is a new location. It will be at the Louisiana National Guard Readiness Center in Reserve on Airline Hwy. The St. John Independence Day celebration along the river is actually Sunday, July 3rd, on the East Bank at St. Peter's Church and on the West Bank at the Edgard Courthouse. Music, fun, food and more will begin at 6:00 and the fireworks will begin at 9:00. This is the first time I think that it is on two separate days. The luncheon is Friday and the fireworks are Sunday. Residents are reminded that the Reserve/Edgard ferry is back in service. The hours of operation haven't changed. The ferry opens at 5:00 AM in Reserve and departs at 8:45 PM from Edgard. It currently holds about 17 vehicles. It is our understanding that they are looking at providing a larger one. We will keep you up to date as to when that occurs but at this point the existing ferry is in operation. We do want to remind you that although the flooding conditions in the Mississippi have improved, there are still warnings and restrictions along the river. No digging, no subsurface work including driving excavation and trenching below 2 feet and within 1,500 feet of the center line. All work below 2 feet requires a letter of no objection from the US Corp of Engineers. Unfortunately these restrictions are inhibiting some of our projects. We are asking that our residents and contractors remain patient with us. It is our understanding as the water level goes down there is still going to be a need to examine the levee and shore it up before removing the restrictions and we are going to follow very closely on that. Unauthorized vehicles are asked to stay off of the levee until further notice but walking and jogging are permitted. I would like to thank Mrs. Eliza Eugene, Chris Ivory and of course Wal-Greens for sponsoring Wal-Greens community day. It was this Saturday right next door at Wal-Greens. It was very well attended. I think it generated somewhere over \$2,200.00 that will go towards recreation throughout St. John Parish and it is also my understanding that there has been some pledges for additional contributions. So again we want to thank them for their efforts and continue to provide activities for our youth. Hurricane preparedness meeting for all of our faith based organizations will be held July 7th, at 3:00 PM in the council chambers. All faith based organizations are invited to attend and this meeting is being organized to receive volunteer information from our faith based organizations interested in helping the parish during a time of need. The organizations can expect a formal letter in the mail. We understand and recognize that during emergencies they are there for us. We would like to have them involved in the planning stages and come to them before hand rather than after an event occurs. So we are encouraging them to attend. All residents can expect hurricane preparedness brochures in their water bills. It is in final design thanks to Mr. Lewis who suggested that we get that out in ways other than just having it at the libraries and on Channel 15. So we are finalizing that document and it will be in the water bills and of course we will have extra copies available as well. I would like to remind all candidates running for political office of our political sign ordinance. Political signs are not permitted until 90 days prior to the October 2nd, election. I think the calculation is July 25th. Letters with a copy of the ordinance have been mailed to all candidates who have announced but

just a reminder that the ordinance is in affect and campaign/yard signs are not allowed prior to the 90 day time period."

Councilman Smith stated, "I see there are a lot of Bobby Jindal signs out. Could you send a letter, that same letter that was sent out to all of our local people, to the Governor and ask him to have his people not put signs out or have code enforcement pick them up and throw them away one of the two."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think that prompted a review of the ordinance. So we will be sure to pass that information on. Again just a reminder we are going into a holiday weekend, like everyone else I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy 4th of July weekend and remind them that all of our government offices will be closed on Monday in observance of the holiday. Again have a nice evening."

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 7:23 PM, Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry & Councilman Lee absent.

/s/Ronnie Smith
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary

