

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JUNE 9TH, 2020
VIDEO/TELECONFERENCE
CHAIRMAN LENNIX MADERE
VICE-CHAIR KURT BECNEL

CERTIFICATE

The St. John the Baptist Parish Council, through its Chairman, Lennix Madere, Jr., hereby certifies as follows: In accordance with Executive Proclamations JBE 2020-30 issued by Governor John Bel Edwards on March 16, 2020, and concurrence by the Attorney General on March 19th, 2020, this Notice shall serve as certification by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council of its inability to operate in accordance with the Louisiana Open Meetings Law due to a lack of quorum as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Pursuant to Section 4 of JBE 2020-30 the St. John the Baptist Parish Council will provide for attendance at its essential government meeting on Tuesday, June 9th, 2020 via video conference in order to obtain a quorum of its members. Therefore, in accordance with JBE 2020-30, the St. John the Baptist Parish Council meeting on Tuesday, June 9th, 2020 at 2:00 PM will be held via video conference and in a manner that will allow for observation and input by members of the public, as set forth in the notice posted on Wednesday, June 3rd, 2020. All other Open Meetings Law requirements have been met.

The St. John the Baptist Parish Council members will meet via Zoom video/teleconference at the posted date and time.

Via Telephone access: Call 985-652-1702

Via Web access: www.sjbparish.com {click on (Government) Menu button, then select (Parish Council)}

Also, you can watch as normal on our Government Channels live with scheduled replays.

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Lennix Madere, Jr., Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Kurt Becnel, Councilman District I, Warren Torres, Jr., Councilman District II, Tammy Houston, Councilwoman District III, Tyra Duhe-Griffin, Councilwoman District IV, Robert Arcuri, Councilman District V, Tonia Schnyder, Councilwoman District VI, Thomas Malik, Councilman District VII, Michael Wright, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B

ABSENT: None

Councilwoman Houston led the Prayer. Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Keith Green, Jr., Christopher Cortez and Kennilyn Schmill were present via video conference.

PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY (90 seconds per citizen)

1st Public Comment: *Shondrell Perrilloux, "In effort to reduce wasteful government spending, it's requested this Council would grant Montegut pit a permit. Given*

the merits of the circumstances it warrants the council to strongly consider keeping our tax dollars locally. It's requested this Council prevent outside influences with no interest as a resident of St John Parish to make standing suggestions. In order to protect the integrity of our Government. Please make wise decisions Thank you Shondrell Perrilloux, Madame President of the NAACP-St John Parish."

2nd Public Comment: Greeting Council members: My name is Derron Cook and I come to you as a concerned African American members of this community, as the world has witnessed, once again, the trauma is seen far too often in our communities by members law enforcement brought on by unseen laws, biases, and systematic oppressions that creates food droughts, financial distress and health disparities within the African American communities and communities of color. As the world takes this moment to grieve with public outcry and anger through demonstrations, protests, and public demand; it is also of the utmost importance that locally we begin to open our eyes, hearts, and mouths to cry out that "Black Lives Matter" and our communities' matter. As the world demonstrates members of your communities are asking and looking for their representatives to provide some sort of statement in regard to this world event. It is not enough to just make generalized statements, but it is important that we begin to identify with members of the community and assure them that you know all too well their feelings and that you are here for them. It is important that white members of this panel, identify as such and make a statement that says you stand with the African American community as we again attempt to cash in on the promise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as promised in our Declaration of Independence. As America and the world gasps and fight to take in a breath, we ask that the distress of the members of your community does not go unseen and unheard. This is the moment that this counsel can take up a resolution to provide within our communities' true recreation and safe spaces for our young men and women of color. This is the time that you take up arms and truly protect your citizens from pollution and environmental discrimination. This is the moment, as we inhale America's promise, which we provide financial and wealth-building classes for members of our minority communities. We are the stories and the heart of St. John's tourism, plantations, and uprising. The death of world citizen, George Floyd, as seen live is only symbolic of the oppression that African Americans had borne for four hundred and one years. So with Juneteenth approaching, and with the June being Black Music Month, just one of African Americans' contributions to the soul of America, I ask that we come off our knees in memory of Mr. Floyd and rise to grant and fulfill the promises of America that is far too often never realized by Africans in America. I ask that every member of this council pledge to improve the lives of every black citizen of St. John and that you here and now affirm, individually, that 'Black Lives Matter'. Respectfully, Derron C. Cook, Sr."

Councilman Madere stated, "I know at this time Miss Schnyder asked that her item be moved up. I'd like someone to make a motion on that to move her item up from the bottom to the top, so she can address this topic/this discussion regarding Systematic Injustice."

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to suspend the rules to move up Miss Tonia Schnyder's item - Discussion regarding Systemic Injustice. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Schnyder stated, "I would like to discuss this outrage that's going

on around the world today. I'm speaking on my behalf, this is a very sensitive subject for me, when there's near and dear to my heart for two (2) reasons: First, my brother that's mentally disabled was a victim of police brutality, right here in St. John Parish. I'm not going to elaborate on the details because he was and he still is traumatized by the incident, and I don't want to open old wounds for him or for my family. Secondly, my entire campaign platform, and my entire adult life, always promoted Unity. It wasn't a campaign slogan, it's something that I truly believe in, with Unity that includes Equality. I've had a few people say to me 'you might not want to talk about that, because...you're going to lose supporters or you're going to lose votes. And then there's some that say...the public officials don't want to talk about it, don't want to address because they're going to lose votes. This subject is not new, and that's the exact reason why it's such an outrage today. Not talking about it does not make it go away. This week was truly an eye opener for me as I read some of the comments of our local residents on social media, although I know racism does exist, I was heart broken to see so much of it right here in our lil parish. I say this to anyone that's watching this meeting, if you watched the video of Mr. George Floyd, as he begged for his life, begged for his deceased mother, and you did not see a problem, if you're watching the people of all races all around the world, protesting against racism and justice, and you don't see the problem...if you had a problem with a man that took a knee as a peaceful protest during the National Anthem against police brutality, because he didn't believe justice was for all and you don't see the problem with a man that took a oath, and is paid to protect and serve take a knee on a human being's neck. I need you to take a good look in the mirror, because maybe just maybe, you are the problem or part of the problem. If you sit behind a computer, or you sit behind a desk, especially if you sit behind a badge, and you able to speak up, are you able to make a difference and you choose not to be part of the solution, I'm sorry, but you are also part of the problem! We may not be able to change the world, but we can start in our own backyard, we can start in our parish. What are we doing as leaders to reassure our constituents know that no matter what color their skin is, we're all equal, what are we doing to reassure our employees that we won't tolerate discrimination in our workplace? I'm not saying that we're not doing it, but the people need to know, the people are saying that they don't know. Again, not addressing the issue does not make it go away. Now, if I stand up and speak on what I believe in, and anyone have a problem with that and lose respect for me ...well guess what! I lose respect for you as well. Because if you don't stand for something, you're going to fall for anything. I too took an oath, to stand up for the people I promised to be the voice for the people, we all made that promise...I'm a Councilwoman, but I'm a mother a black mother, what a black son! AJ, he could be the next Trayvon Martin, my brother could've been George Floyd, any day I could be the next Sandra Bland. As Mrs. Hotard Stated, being quiet is comfortable, being quiet is convenient, injustice is neither. The big bad NFL apologies, and said-we got it wrong! We got it wrong! Some say too little too late, I disagree...it's never too late to start fresh, but we have to do it together. So, I say to our Sheriff, our Parish leaders, our constituents, we all have made mistakes, but when you know better you do better. We need accountability, we can't continue to sit back and brush things under the rug, slap on the wrist and pretend they're not happening. The people are tired, it's time for change and we have to be that change. One more thing and I'm going to end...this is something I read and I would like to share, I would like everyone to just listen and let it marinate. If your wife come to you in obvious pain, and she ask...do you love me? An answer of...I love ever of-I love everyone, would be truthful. But also, cruel in the moment. If a coworker comes to you upset and

said, 'my father just died', response of everyone parents' dye. It would be truthful, but hurtful at the moment. So, when a friend speaks up in a time obvious pain and hurt and says, 'Black lives matter', a response of all live matter is truthful, but it's hurtful, and cruel in the moment. No one never ever said only black lives matter, but if all lives matter...you would be just as upset. St. John Parish, we also got it wrong. But it's not too late to make it right. At this point it's not just a black and white thing, it's a love and hate thing. Thank you."

Discussion on the above item can be viewed in its entirety at www.sjbparish.com.

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:

Jaclyn Hotard - Proclamation - June 15-21 as Men's Health Week

Jaclyn Hotard, Parish President, read the proclamation for June as Men's Health Week.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - May 26th, 2020, Regular Meeting; Jaclyn Hotard - Appointment of Katie Klibert to the St. John the Baptist Parish Civil Service Board by the River Region Chamber of Commerce; Councilman Becnel - Re-appointment of Joy Banner to the Historic District Commission; Permit Approval - NAACP with Voices Against Inhumane Violence - Saturday, June 13th, 2020 at Noon at 1811 W. Airline Hwy., LaPlace, LA

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - May 26th, 2020, Regular Meeting; Jaclyn Hotard - Appointment of Katie Klibert to the St. John the Baptist Parish Civil Service Board by the River Region Chamber of Commerce; Councilman Becnel - Re-appointment of Joy Banner to the Historic District Commission; Permit Approval - NAACP with Voices Against Inhumane Violence - Saturday, June 13th, 2020 at Noon at 1811 W. Airline Hwy., LaPlace, LA. The motion passed with Councilman Arcuri absent.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION ON ORDINANCES:

20-12 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the re-subdivision of a portion of Parcel B of the Bienvenu Estates Subdivision into Parcel B-1 and Parcel B-2 of the Bienvenu Estates Subdivision, located in the area generally bounded by E. 22nd Street, Homewood Place, West Airline Highway, and Highway 44, as shown in a survey prepared by Stephen P. Flynn, P.L.S. on March 16, 2020. (PZS-20-1241)

Rene Pastorek stated, "This re-subdivision request to enable further development of the property was recommended with unanimous approval by the Planning Commission at its May 18, 2020 meeting and by the Utility Board at its May 11, 2020 meeting. Due to consistency with the zoning district requirements, the surrounding neighborhood development pattern, and the goals of the Comprehensive Plan, Administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 20-12. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee:

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you Mr. Chairman, at this time, I'll offer a motion accepting the recommendation of the finance committee."

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin seconded the motion accepting the recommendation of the finance committee. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Robbie Arcuri - Discussion regarding proposed Montegut Borrow Pit

Councilman Arcuri stated, "Okay, I'd like to read a statement that I just put together so I don't miss anything, so bear with me. Fellow Councilmen, the reason I'm bringing up this topic of the proposed Montegut Pit, is to let the public know how this project could affect St. John Parish and the levee project as a whole. This will be the biggest engineering project in St. John history. For reference, the proposed Borrow Pit site is located North of Airline Highway between Old 51 neighborhood and River Forest Subdivision. The site would be approximately be one-third mile, West from River Forest and one-half mile East from the Old 51 neighborhood. The site is bordered on the Westside by the United States Corps of Engineers staging site, for borrow material. Clay will be staged and processed there then used for the construction of the levee. There is also an access road that intersects the site that will connect to the levee and will be used to transport clay to the levee construction site. The Corps of Engineers has leased this property and identified this site as a strategic location to stockpile 3-4 million cubic yards of material in their Draft Supplemental Environmental Report. The Montegut site meets the Corps of Engineers requirements for borrow material and would be ready to supply the project with up to 7 million cubic yards of material needed for the first lift of the levee if permitted by the parish. There is still a solicitation process that the Corps will initiate to identify and solicit bids for clay needed for the West Shore project. This site, if permitted by the parish will allow the Montegut site to participate in a Corps of Engineering bidding process for clay. The Montegut site if selected would significantly reduce truck traffic on Airline Highway, the borrow material, once excavated would be staged on the Corps staging site, adjacent to the borrow pit and would be processed and trucked to the levee site on the access road that intersects the staging area. The proposed project would also provide a sales tax benefit to the parish for the sale of borrow material to the Corps, from the sale. The Montegut site is zoned R1, and to be eligible to be granted the Conditional Use Permit for a clay pit, the 123-acre site would have to be rezoned to rural. If a zoning request is granted, after public comment and Planning Board approval, and conditions are met for the Conditional Use Permit, the Council

would then be required to initiate a Resolution to grant the permit. The landowner and their representatives have turned in a zoning change request, and paperwork for the Conditional Use Permit. I met with Mr. Pastorek last week, and he stated that both permit request could be worked in parallel to minimize any delays in the permitting process while still adhering to the ordinances. I had spoken to the River Forest Homeowners Association President, and, also, the Old 51 President and discussed the proposed project so they could communicate with their residents and inform them of their roll in the public comment process that will take place concerning this matter. I had spoken with Mr. Klein with the CPRA, also about this site, and he said he would be happy to meet with the Council and discuss any questions we have on the levee project. That's all I have to say about it, I believe I don't want to try to make a hard sell to face for this site, but what I want to do, is to inform the public the benefits that this site could probably help St. John Parish out with this excess sales tax and the reduction of trucks on Airline Highway. With that I'll open it up for discussion if anybody wants to discuss, if that's appropriate."

Discussion on the above item can be viewed in its entirety at www.sjbparish.com.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

20-13 An ordinance authorizing the issuance of Public Improvement Refunding Bonds of the St. John the Baptist Parish Sales Tax District; prescribing the form, terms and conditions of such bonds; authorizing an agreement with the Paying Agent; and providing for other matters in connection therewith (J. Hotard)

PRESIDENT REPORT:

The president report can be viewed in its entirety at www.sjbparish.com.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 5:08 PM, Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Lennix Madere
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary

The meeting can be viewed in its entirety at www.sjbparish.com.

Public Comment Form: <http://st-john-parish.com/council-meeting/>