

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12TH, 2021
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING
CHAIRMAN KURT BECNEL
VICE-CHAIR MICHAEL WRIGHT

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist Parish, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the St. John the Baptist Parish Government Complex Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, January 12th, 2021, at 6:30 PM.

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

OPENING PRAYER: Pastor Neil Bernard led the Prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilman Tom Malik led the Pledge.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY (3 minutes per citizen)

There were four public comments read into the minutes.

Jaclyn Hotard - Proclamation - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Monday, January 18, 2021

Jaclyn Hotard, Parish President, read the Proclamation - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Monday, January 18, 2021.

COUNCIL - Selection of Officers: Council Chairman; Council Vice-Chairman; Finance Chairman; Finance Vice-Chairman

MOTION: Councilman Malik moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to nominate Councilman Kurt Becnel as the Chairman of the Parish Council. The motion passed with Councilman Arcuri absent.

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to nominate Councilman Michael Wright as the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council. The motion passed with Councilman Arcuri absent.

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to nominate Councilman Tom Malik as the Chairman of the Finance Committee. The motion passed with Councilman Arcuri absent.

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin seconded the motion to nominate Councilwoman Tonia Schnyder as the Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - December 22nd, 2020, Regular Meeting

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin seconded the motion to approve consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - December 22nd, 2020, Regular Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

President's Report:

The President's Report can be viewed in its entirety at www.sjbparish.com.

Michael Wright - Finance Committee Report:

Councilman Wright stated, *"The finance committee met this evening prior to this meeting and all Council members were present."*

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION ON ORDINANCES/NEW BUSINESS:

20-52(Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the rezoning of Lot 1-A, Cali Subdivision, No. 2 of Farm Lot 29 from the Residential District (R-1) and Commercial District 3 (C-3) to the Rural District located in the area generally bounded by E. Airline Highway, U.S. Highway 51, and Windsor Blvd., LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA, as shown in Exhibit 1 attached (PZR-20-1200) (R. Pastorek)

Rene Pastorek stated, *"This rezoning request to enable development of a cemetery was recommended with unanimous approval by the Planning Commission at its December 14, 2020 meeting. The Planning and Zoning Department finds this request is consistent with the zoning district requirements, the Future Land Use Map, the goals of the Comprehensive Plan and meets the technical sufficiency for consideration by the Parish Council."*

MOTION: Councilman Arcuri moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 20-52. The motion passed unanimously.

20-53(Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the rezoning of the Lot E of the West Half of Block 33, Hope Plantation from the Residential District (R-1) to the Residential District (R-2) located in the area generally bounded by Highway 54, Anthony F. Monica St. and Garyville Northern St., Garyville, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA, as shown in Exhibit 1 attached (PZR-20-1201) (R. Pastorek)

Jaclyn Hotard stated, *"This rezoning request to enable further development of the property was recommended with unanimous approval by the Planning Commission at its December 14, 2020 meeting. The Planning and Zoning Department finds this request is consistent with the zoning district requirements, the Future Land Use Map, the goals of the Comprehensive Plan and meets the technical sufficiency for consideration by the Parish Council."*

MOTION: Councilman Torres moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 20-53. The motion passed unanimously.

20-54 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council Implementing a Parish Recognition Program for Renaming Public Streets and Public Property (T. Houston & K. Becnel)

Discussion on Ordinance 20-54 can be viewed in its entirety at www.sjbparish.com.

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to TABLE Ordinance 20-54 to have a workshop to discuss any and any problem that may come from this ordinance. The motion passed with 5 yeas (Duhe-Griffin, Schnyder, Madere, Malik, Torres), 4 Nays (Arcuri, Becnel, Houston, Wright).

Jaclyn Hotard - Resolution - R21-01 - A resolution requesting and authorizing the Department of Planning and Zoning and the Planning Commission to conduct a study of the text of Chapter 113. - Zoning, specifically, those provisions related to the regulation of alternative financial institutions, as well as to provide for related matters (Parish wide)

Rene Pastorek stated, *"This resolution authorizes the Planning Department to conduct a study to update regulations pertaining to alternative financial institutions such as pay day loans, pawn shops and check cashing establishments. Interim regulations enacted would require these uses to receive Council approval and meet a minimum distance from residential zones and other similar establishments. Administration recommends approval."*

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R21-01. A resolution requesting and authorizing the Department of Planning and Zoning and the Planning Commission to conduct a study of the text of Chapter 113. - Zoning, specifically, those provisions related to the regulation of alternative financial institutions, as well as to provide for related matters. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard - Resolution - R21-02 - A Resolution authorizing the Parish President to complete and submit those documents and agreements required in connection with the Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) 2020-2021 Grant Application in the sum of \$64,500 to the State of Louisiana to install isolation valves in various locations throughout the water distribution system

Jaclyn Hotard stated, *"The proposed water system improvements will include the purchase and installation of isolation valves in various locations of the water distribution systems to allow the Utilities Department to isolate the system in an efficient and effective manner for repairs without having to shut off water to a large number of residents. The Grant Application including the Council Resolution of support is due no later than February 1, 2021 to the Louisiana State Office of Community Development. This project will be fully funded through the 2020-2021 Community Water Enrichment Fund in the amount of \$64,500. Administration recommends approval."*

MOTION: Councilman Malik moved and Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R21-02. A resolution authorizing the Parish President to complete and submit those documents and agreements required in connection with the Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) 2020-2021 Grant Application in the sum

of \$64,500 to the State of Louisiana to install isolation valves in various locations throughout the water distribution system. The motion passed unanimously.

Myra Alexis-Valentine - Resolution - R21-03 - A Resolution authorizing an LGAP grant application to the Office of Community Development (OCD) for the installation of a covered structure at the West Bank Council on Aging Center

Jaclyn Hotard stated, "This Resolution authorizes an application to be submitted for grant funds in the amount of \$58,800 for the installation of a covered structure at the West Bank Council on Aging Center. Administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R21-03. A resolution authorizing an LGAP grant application to the Office of Community Development (OCD) for the installation of a covered structure at the West Bank Council on Aging Center. The motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Tonia Schnyder - Update from the Administration regarding the spike in COVID cases

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

Tyra Duhe-Griffin - Update from the Administration on the dredging of the permitted Canals

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

MOTION: Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Xavier Johns v. St. John the Baptist Parish Council, et al., Docket No. 74690, Division B. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Schnyder excused herself from the meeting at 7:55 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Xavier Johns v. St. John the Baptist Parish Council, et al., Docket No. 74690, Division "B"

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Arcuri seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed with Councilwoman Schnyder absent.

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of Attorney Sammy Accardo, Jr. in the case of Xavier Johns v. St. John the Baptist Parish Council, et al, Docket No. 74690. The motion passed with Councilwoman Schnyder absent.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

There were no ordinances to introduce.

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS:

The correspondence/council briefs can be viewed in its entirety at www.sjbparish.com.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:28 PM, Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Schnyder absent.

/s/Kurt P. Becnel
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary

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