

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 14TH, 2023
CHAIRMAN THOMAS MALIK
VICE-CHAIR KURT BECNEL

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist Parish, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Rudolph Sorapuru Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, March 14th, 2023, at 6:00 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: None

Councilman Wright led the Prayer and Councilman Madere led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Keith Green, Jr. and Kennilyn Schmill were present.

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

Public Comment was made on agenda item Ordinance 23-08 by Virgie Johnson.

Jaclyn Hotard - Proclamation - March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month

Jaclyn Hotard - Proclamation - March as National Kidney Month

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - February 28th, 2023, Council Meeting; Permit Approval - St. Joan of Arc Stations of the Cross Procession - Friday, April 7th, 2023 beginning at 5:00 PM at St. Joan of Arc Church - 529 W. 5th Street, LaPlace, LA; Councilman Madere - Re-appointment of Greta Duhe to the Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve consent agenda item - Approval of Minutes - February 28th, 2023, Council Meeting; Permit Approval - St. Joan of Arc Stations of the Cross Procession - Friday, April 7th, 2023 beginning at 5:00 PM at St. Joan of Arc Church - 529 W. 5th Street, LaPlace, LA; Councilman Madere - Re-appointment of Greta Duhe to the Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to suspend the rules to take up the Executive Session item now. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Bridget A. Dinvaut, in her official capacity as

District Attorney v. St. John the Baptist Parish Governing Authority and St. John the Baptist Parish Council, 40th JDC Docket No. 77055. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Bridget A. Dinvaut, in her official capacity as District Attorney v. St. John the Baptist Parish Governing Authority and St. John the Baptist Parish Council, 40th JDC Docket No. 77055

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to go back into Regular Session. The motion passed with Councilman Becnel absent.

There was no action taken as a result of the executive session.

REPORTS:

President's Report

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION ON ORDINANCE (S)/NEW BUSINESS:

23-08 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance that Sections 2-20 and 2-21 of Chapter 2, Article II Establishing the composition and membership of the Parish Council; creating of Election Districts and Precincts, and the designation of Polling Places hereby amended to provide for District, Precinct Boundary Descriptions and Polling Places all in accordance with the 2023 St. John the Baptist Parish Redistricting Plan (K. Becnel)

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23-08.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Councilwoman Schnyder moved and Councilman Torres seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23-08 removing and the designation of polling places from the ordinance. The motion passed with 5 yeas (Arcuri, Wright, Schnyder, Duhe-Griffin, Torres) and 4 nay (Malik, Becnel, Houston, Madere).

(Please see reconsider of Ordinance 23-08 at end of meeting)

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-42 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to advertise and auction Parish surplus items

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-42. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to advertise and auction Parish surplus items. WHEREAS, Article IV, Section H (2) and (5) of the St. John the Baptist Parish Home Rule Charter permits the Parish Council to adopt a resolution when authorizing a designated person(s) to execute a previously approved contract on its behalf and/or to perform a ministerial act related to the administrative business of the Parish; and WHEREAS, this request is in accordance with State guidelines for disposing of surplus property. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that St. John the Baptist Parish is hereby authorized to advertise and auction Parish surplus items. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-43 - A Resolution authorizing St.

John the Baptist Parish President to execute Change Order No. 3 with FCA Construction, LLC. for the Thermoplastic (TPO) or Modified Bitumen Roof Hurricane Ida Disaster Repairs

MOTION: Councilwoman Schnyder moved and Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-43. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute Change Order No. 3 with FCA Construction, LLC. for the Thermoplastic (TPO) or Modified Bitumen Roof Hurricane Ida Disaster Repairs. WHEREAS, Article IV, Section H (2) and (5) of the St. John the Baptist Parish Home Rule Charter permits the Parish Council to adopt a resolution when authorizing a designated person(s) to execute a previously approved contract on its behalf and/or to perform a ministerial act related to the administrative business of the Parish; and WHEREAS, Change Order No. 3 decreases the original contract amount by \$11,088.50; and, WHEREAS, this is a close-out Change Order and the decrease is due to the adjustment of quantities used to complete the repairs; and, WHEREAS, the project is funded through the Hurricane Ida Fund with FEMA reimbursement. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that Parish President Jaclyn Hotard is hereby duly authorized and empowered on behalf of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council to execute Change Order No. 3 between St. John the Baptist Parish and FCA Construction, LLC. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-44 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute Change Order No. 1 with Roofing Solutions, LLC. for Metal Roof Hurricane Ida Disaster Repairs

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-44. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute Change Order No. 1 with Roofing Solutions, LLC. for Metal Roof Hurricane Ida Disaster Repairs. WHEREAS, Article IV, Section H (2) and (5) of the St. John the Baptist Parish Home Rule Charter permits the Parish Council to adopt a resolution when authorizing a designated person(s) to execute a previously approved contract on its behalf and/or to perform a ministerial act related to the administrative business of the Parish; and WHEREAS, Change Order No. 1 increases the Agreement time by an additional sixty (60) calendar days at no additional cost; and, WHEREAS, the additional days are due to the Contractor not being able to perform work at REGALA Gymnasium until Basketball Season ends on March 19, 2023; and, WHEREAS, the project is funded through the Hurricane Ida Fund with FEMA reimbursement. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that Parish President Jaclyn Hotard is hereby duly authorized and empowered on behalf of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council to execute Change Order No. 1 between St. John the Baptist Parish and Roofing Solutions, LLC. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-45 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to extend the Professional Services Agreement with Desire Line, LLC for the Resilient Housing Plan

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-45. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to extend the Professional Services Agreement with Desire Line, LLC for the Resilient Housing Plan. WHEREAS, Article IV, Section H (2) and (5) of the St. John the Baptist Parish Home Rule Charter permits the Parish Council to adopt a resolution when authorizing a designated person(s) to execute a previously

approved contract on its behalf and/or to perform a ministerial act related to the administrative business of the Parish; and WHEREAS, Desire Line, LLC addresses critical, physical and social vulnerabilities and provides implementable funding strategies to improve the available housing in the Parish; and, WHEREAS, Extension No. 1 adds an additional six (6) months to the original Agreement; and, WHEREAS, services are funded through a Grant in the amount of \$20,000 that was provided to the Parish by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) through Smart Home America, Inc. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that St. John the Baptist Parish is hereby authorized to extend the Professional Services Agreement with Desire Line, LLC. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-46 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to amend the Sub-Grant Agreement with Smart Home America, Inc. (SHA) for a Community Resilience Housing Plan

MOTION: Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin moved and Councilman Arcuri seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-46. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to amend the Sub-Grant Agreement with Smart Home America, Inc. (SHA) for a Community Resilience Housing Plan. WHEREAS, Article IV, Section H (2) and (5) of the St. John the Baptist Parish Home Rule Charter permits the Parish Council to adopt a resolution when authorizing a designated person(s) to execute a previously approved contract on its behalf and/or to perform a ministerial act related to the administrative business of the Parish; and WHEREAS, Grant Funds in the amount of \$20,000 were provided to the Parish by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and allocated to produce a Community Resilience Housing Plan that will address critical, physical and social vulnerabilities; and WHEREAS, the Plan will provide implementable funding strategies to improve the available housing in the Parish; and, WHEREAS, Amendment No. 1 extends the term for an additional six (6) months at no additional cost. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that Parish President Jaclyn Hotard is hereby duly authorized and empowered on behalf of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council to execute Amendment No. 1 of the Sub-Grant Agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and Smart Home America, Inc. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard - Resolution - R23-47 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration (DOA) for the Water Sector Program

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-47. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration (DOA) for the Water Sector Program. WHEREAS, Article IV, Section H (2) and (5) of the St. John the Baptist Parish Home Rule Charter permits the Parish Council to adopt a resolution when authorizing a designated person(s) to execute a previously approved contract on its behalf and/or to perform a ministerial act related to the administrative business of the Parish; and WHEREAS, St. John the Baptist Parish was awarded through a competitive selection process a grant in the amount of \$2,494,889 for the St. John the Baptist Parish Comprehensive Water Improvement Program; and, WHEREAS, this CEA with the State of Louisiana DOA is for the purpose of allocating project funding for St. John the Baptist Parish Government in accordance with its application to the Water Sector Program; and, WHEREAS, the DOA, through the Office of Community

Development will transfer the sum of \$2,494,889 in monthly payments for the purpose of funding water, sewer, and/or storm water infrastructure projects selected by the Water Sector Commission. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that Parish President Jaclyn Hotard is hereby duly authorized and empowered on behalf of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council to sign and execute the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard, Parish President, stated, *"Point of order, I would like to ask that you call for a five minute recess, I believe that the previous vote that we took on the voting precincts may have been in proper. I would like to have legal have an opportunity to review it. If it weren't something as important as the voting precincts, I would not ask to do this, however, I would not want to open our voting precincts to a legal challenge. So I am asking that you call for a five to ten minute recess."*

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to call a ten minute recess. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Councilwoman Schnyder stated, *"I would like to make a motion to reconsider Ordinance 23-08."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Schnyder moved and Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin seconded the motion to reconsider Ordinance 23-08. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Schnyder stated, *"I would like to make a motion to amend Ordinance 23-08, to remove all polling places."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Schnyder moved and Councilman Torres seconded the motion to amend Ordinance 23-08, to remove all polling places. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23-08 as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

There were no ordinances to be introduced at tonight's meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS:

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:46 PM, Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Torres seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Thomas Malik
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary