

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JUNE 23rd, 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 23rd, 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 23rd, 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 17th, 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, Thomas Malik, Councilman District VII, Michael Wright, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B

ABSENT: Tonia Schnyder

Councilman Wright led the Prayer. Councilman Malik 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)

There were no public comments.

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:

Jaclyn Hotard - Proclamation - Year of the Gulf

Jaclyn Hotard, Parish President, read the proclamation for Year of the Gulf.

Jaclyn Hotard - Proclamation - Fair Housing Month

Jaclyn Hotard, Parish President, read the proclamation for Fair Housing Month.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - June 9th, 2020, Regular Meeting

MOTION: Councilman Malik moved and Councilman Torres seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes - June 9th, 2020, Regular Meeting. The motion passed with Councilwoman Schnyder absent.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION ON ORDINANCES:

20-13(Public Hearing Held) 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)

Jaclyn Hotard stated, *"The St. John the Baptist Sales Tax District (a special taxing district created and governed by the Parish Council, subject to the provisions of the Home Rule Charter) issued \$15 million in Public Improvement Sales Tax Bonds in 2010. Those bonds bear interest rates from 4.00% to 4.125%. In the current market, the bonds of the same maturity should have lower yields, so there is an opportunity to refund (i.e., refinance) those bonds, which will result in savings to the District. Since the debt service is paid exclusively from the 1% sales tax currently being levied, any savings realized as a result of the refunding will allow for more sales tax proceeds to be budgeted for road improvements or to support the water or sewer systems. The refunding will not extend the final maturity of the bonds. Administration recommends approval."*

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 20-13. The motion passed with Councilwoman Schnyder absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee:

Councilman Wright stated, *"Thank you Mr. Chairman, at this time, I will offer a motion that we accept the recommendations of the finance committee."*

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Arcuri seconded the motion accepting the recommendation of the finance committee. The motion passed with Councilwoman Schnyder absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lennix Madere - Selection of the Official Journal for St. John the Baptist Parish Government

MOTION: Councilman Arcuri moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to appoint the L'Observateur as the Official Journal for St. John Parish Government. The motion passed with Councilwoman Schnyder absent.

Jaclyn Hotard - Resolution - R20-18 - A Resolution urging the United States Congress to include GOMESA improvement provisions in the Great American Outdoors Act which increases revenue sharing allocations to oil producing states of the Gulf of Mexico for coastal restoration and protection projects

Rene Pastorek stated, *"This Resolution urges Congress to increase the amount of funding that the state and parishes receive from offshore oil and gas production. These funds are distributed annually and must be used on coastal restoration and protection projects. The Parish is currently using GOMESA funds to design and construct the Lake Pontchartrain Shoreline Protection project and a breakwater system to prevent erosion and land loss. By removing the cap on annual revenues, the state and parishes will be able to design and construct additional projects for critical coastal protection. Administration recommends approval."*

MOTION: Councilman Malik moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve Resolution R20-18. A resolution urging the United States Congress to include GOMESA improvement provisions in the Great American Outdoors Act which increases revenue sharing allocations to oil producing states of the Gulf of Mexico for coastal restoration and protection projects. The motion passed with Councilwoman Schnyder absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS

Robert Figuero - Monthly Financial Report (May 2020)

Jaclyn Hotard stated, *"Just again, we'll probably move this item on the agenda, it's just for acknowledging that financial report has been sent to the Council."*

Tammy Houston - Update on sales tax revenues during Governor's quarantine mandate during COVID-19

Councilwoman Houston stated, *"Yes um, I have been asked several times by some residents - how did we stand with the mandate; would businesses be required to close; how did we look on sales tax...on revenues from sales tax? So, I thought it was a valid question and I asked the CFA, Mr. Figuero, and I was surprised by his comments, and I thought that this was something that, that we should share with the residents. Because during this time with the shutdown and the mandate to stay home, I thought that they could use a bit of good news. So, I wanted to ask Mr. Figuero if he would share, what he shared with me with the public."*

Robert Figuero stated, *"Thank you Councilwoman. As expected, sales tax collections have decreased due to COVID-19, but the main funds that are relying on these collections, do remain healthy at this time. We're still collecting data*

as every month goes by, we'll get additional data that's going to help us see the future and project the future. But as of now again, our funds are fairly healthy, the ones that rely on sales tax collections, they did dip or they did decrease, which is was expected because of COVID-19, but currently the Parish is in a good healthy spot as of right now."

Councilwoman Houston stated, "I thank you, and I think that is something that a lot of people in the public wanted to know, and I think that put their minds at ease. So, thank you Mr. Figureo."

Robert Figuero stated, "Yes ma'am."

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

20-14 An ordinance approving the re-subdivision of Parcels 51-A-1 and 51-A-2 of Reserve Plantation into Parcels 51-A-1A and 51-A-2A of Reserve Plantation, including a 10' water servitude and 20' access servitude, located in the area generally bounded by W. Airline Highway, River Road, W. 10th Street and NW 4th Street, Reserve as shown in a survey prepared by Stephen P. Flynn, P.L.S. on March 24, 2019 (PZS-20-1240) (J. Hotard)

20-15 An ordinance approving the re-subdivision of Lot B, Lot C and a portion of the George Haik Tract into Lots 1-C and 1-D of the George Haik Tract, located in the area generally bounded by River Road, W. Airline Highway, W. 4th Street, and W. 3rd Street, Reserve, as shown in a survey prepared by Stephen P. Flynn, P.L.S. on April 2, 2020 (PZS-20-1242) (J. Hotard)

20-16 An ordinance approving the re-subdivision of Lot A, Godchaux Community, Unit No. 1, Riverlands into Lots A-1 and A-2, Godchaux Community, Unit No. 1, Riverlands, in the area generally bounded by Ormond Blvd., Cambridge Drive, Airline Hwy., and Madewood Rd., LaPlace, as shown in a survey prepared by Stephen P. Flynn, P.L.S. on May 18, 2020 (PZS-20-1244) (J. Hotard).

PRESIDENT REPORT:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

At 3:28, Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Schnyder absent.

/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/>