

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JULY 25th, 2023
CHAIRMAN MICHAEL WRIGHT
VICE-CHAIR KURT BECNEL

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, July 25th, 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, Warren Torres, Councilman District II, Michael Wright, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B, Tanya Faucheux, Councilwoman District VII, Robert Arcuri, Councilman District V, Tyra Duhe-Griffin Councilwoman District IV

ABSENT: Tonia Schnyder

Councilman Torres led the Prayer and Councilwoman Houston led the Pledge.

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

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

There was no public comment at this time.

Jaclyn Hotard - Recognition - St. John Parks & Recreation 8-year-old All-Star Team, Jr. NBA Basketball Champions

Councilwoman Schnyder arrived at 6:05 PM.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - July 11th, 2023, Council Meeting; Councilman Wright - Appointment of Jeremy Beasley to the Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve consent agenda items - Approval of Minutes - July 11th, 2023, Council Meeting; Councilman Wright - Appointment of Jeremy Beasley to the Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 against (Torres).

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Arcuri seconded the motion to go into executive session to discuss *Camille Oubre v. Judge Nghana Lewis and St. John the Baptist Parish Council*, Civil Action No. 22-cv-01789 (E.D. La.). The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Camille Oubre v. Judge Nghana Lewis and St. John the Baptist Parish Council, Civil Action No. 22-cv-01789 (E.D. La.)

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

MOTION: Councilman Arcuri moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to ratify the Parish President's execution of the settlement document for Camille Oubre v. Judge Nghana Lewis and St. John the Baptist Parish Council, Civil Action No. 22-cv-01789 (E.D. La.). The motion passed with 7 yeas and 2 abstaining (Schnyder, Torres).

REPORTS:

President's Report

Jaclyn Hotard - Monthly Financial Report (June 2023)

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

23-32 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending Chapter 42 - Utilities, Article III - Water Systems, to add Sec. 42-54 - Fiberoptic cable permitting process (See attached exhibit) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Arcuri seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23-32. The motion passed unanimously.

23-33 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance that Ordinance 23-08 hereby be amended to remove Precinct 7-5 (M. Wright)

MOTION: Councilwoman Schnyder moved and Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23-33. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 against (Torres).

23-34 (Public Hearing Held) A millage ordinance - an ordinance providing for the levy and collection of ad valorem taxes in the Parish of St. John the Baptist, to be spread upon the 2023 Assessment Roll (J. Hotard)

Public comment was made on agenda item Ordinance 23-34 by Joy Banner.

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23-34. The motion passed with 7 yeas and 2 abstaining (Schnyder, Torres).

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-148 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to solicit bids for the REGALA Park Field No. 1 and Park Field No. 3 Synthetic Turf Project

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-148. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to solicit bids for the REGALA Park Field No. 1 and Park Field No. 3 Synthetic Turf Project. 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, services include synthetic turf installation

and new drainage on the Little League Baseball Field (Field No. 1 and Field No. 3); and, WHEREAS, the estimated cost of the Project is \$535,138 and will be funded through the Recreation Department Budget. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that St. John the Baptist Parish is hereby authorized to solicit bids for the REGALA Park Field No. 1 and Park Field No. 3 Synthetic Turf Project. The motion passed with 7 yeas and 2 abstaining (Schnyder, Torres).

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-149 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to solicit bids for the St. John Hurricane Ida Repairs to Water/Wastewater Building Facilities Project

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-149. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to solicit bids for the St. John Hurricane Ida Repairs to Water/Wastewater Building Facilities Project. 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, services will include repairs that are needed to various Water and Wastewater Building Facilities throughout the Parish due to damages sustained by Hurricane Ida; and, WHEREAS, repairs are required at the River Rd Wastewater Treatment Plant, Tigerville Wastewater Treatment Pond, Woodland Wastewater Treatment Plant, Lions Water Treatment Plant and the Edgard Water Treatment Plant; and, WHEREAS, the estimated cost of the Project is \$388,000 and will be funded through the Hurricane Ida Fund with FEMA Reimbursement. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that St. John the Baptist Parish is hereby authorized to solicit bids for the St. John Hurricane Ida Repairs to Water/Wastewater Building Facilities Project. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-150 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to advertise Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the Fire Department's Property and Casualty Insurance and the Coroner and Juvenile Probation Officer's General Liability Insurance

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Torres seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-150. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to advertise Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the Fire Department's Property and Casualty Insurance and the Coroner and Juvenile Probation Officer's General Liability Insurance. 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, the Parish is requesting proposals for the Fire Department's Property and Casualty Insurance which expires September 7, 2023 and is funded through the Office of Fire Services; and, WHEREAS, the Parish is requesting proposals for the Coroner's General Liability Insurance which expires September 7, 2023 and is funded through the General Fund; and, WHEREAS, the Parish is also requesting proposals for the Juvenile Probation Officer's General Liability Insurance which expires September 7, 2023 and is funded through the Juvenile Detention Budget. 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 Request Proposals for the Fire Department's

Property and Casualty Insurance and the Coroner and Juvenile Probation Officer's General Liability Insurance. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-151 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to award the bid for Decorative Post Top Luminaire Street Light Fixtures to Notoco Industries

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-151. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to award the bid for Decorative Post Top Luminaire Street Light Fixtures to Notoco Industries. 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, Notoco Industries of Kenner, LA submitted the lowest responsive and responsible bid for a unit cost of \$739.51; and, WHEREAS, services include the replacement of damaged fixtures in River Oaks and Live Oaks Subdivision; and, WHEREAS, project will be funded through the Street Lights Budget. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that St. John the Baptist Parish is hereby authorized to award the bid for Decorative Post Top Luminaire Street Light Fixtures to Notoco Industries. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 against (Torres).

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-152 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to award the bid for Membrane Filters for the Reverse Osmosis Unit to Surplus Management, Inc.

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Arcuri seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-152. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to award the bid for Membrane Filters for the Reverse Osmosis Unit to Surplus Management, Inc. 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, Surplus Management, Inc. of Loves Park, IL submitted the lowest responsive and responsible bid in the amount of \$590 for each replacement membrane for the LaPlace Water System; and, WHEREAS, orders will be placed on an as-needed basis; and, WHEREAS, orders will be funded through the Utilities Budget. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that St. John the Baptist Parish is hereby authorized to award the bid for Membrane Filters for the Reverse Osmosis Unit to Surplus Management, Inc. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-153 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant

MOTION: Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin moved and Councilman Arcuri seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-153. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant. 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, the Regional Planning Commission for Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, and Tangipahoa Parishes staff worked in partnership with three parishes (St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and St. John the Baptist Parishes) to facilitate an application for Action Plan funding from the USDOT Safe Streets for All grant program; and WHEREAS, the Safe Streets for All program is intended to create plans that will reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries particularly in disadvantaged communities using a data driven approach and through community outreach activities; and WHEREAS, the Safe Streets for All application requested \$656,000 in federal funds (80% of the total cost) and \$164,000 of local funds (20% of the total cost), whereby local funds were agreed to be paid by the three named parishes; and WHEREAS, after discussion and quantification of total population, total square miles, and percent of disadvantaged populations in the three parishes, a proportionate local match was identified for St. John the Baptist Parish in the amount of \$30,000; and WHEREAS, the Regional Planning Commission agrees to develop a scope of work, solicit a consultant, and administer the USDOT Safe Streets for All grant. 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 Regional Planning Commission. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 abstaining (Torres).

Jaclyn Hotard/Reed Alexander - Resolution - R23-154 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to amend the Cooperate Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with South Central Planning Development Commission, Inc. (SCPDC)

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-154. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to amend the Cooperate Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with South Central Planning Development Commission, Inc. (SCPDC). 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, Amendment No. 2 will allow SCPDC to perform Sewer Line Connection Inspections and Water Meter Box Inspections on new home and commercial construction; and, WHEREAS, the cost of these services will be \$75 for each inspection and will be funded through the Utilities Budget. 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 Amendment No. 2 of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and South Central Planning Development Commission, Inc. The motion passed with 7 yeas and 2 against (Arcuri, Torres).

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

23-35 An ordinance amending Chapter 14 - Fees and Charges, Section 14-105 - Buildings and building regulations to add under part 3 building code permit fees item C residential renovations a new sub-item 4 residential re-roofs in the amount of \$50.
(J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

23-36 An ordinance approving the rezoning of Lot-2-EM, Elisa Madere Subdivision, located in the area generally bounded by the Y & M. V. Railroad, E. 12th Street, E. 13th Street, Duhe Drive, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA from the Residential District One (R-1) to the Residential District Two (R-2) (PZR-23-1405) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

23-37 An ordinance approving the rezoning of Lot 6, Edwin Cambre Subdivision, located in the area generally bounded by Sugar Pine Street, Hwy. 628, Aycok Drive, and Sycamore, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA from the Residential District One (R-1) to the Residential District Three (R-3) (PZR-23-1411) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

23-38 An ordinance amending Chapter 2, Section 21 of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances to establish and define the St. John the Baptist Parish Precinct Boundaries, Merge and Consolidate Precincts, and establish Precinct Polling Places (K. Becnel)

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS:

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:57 PM, Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Michael Wright
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary