

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 10TH, 2020
CHAIRMAN LENNIX MADERE
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 10th, 2020, 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

Councilwoman Schnyder led the Prayer. Councilwoman Houston led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Keith Green, Jr., Christopher Cortez were present.

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

Public Comment items can be viewed in its entirety at www.sjbparish.com.

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:

Jaclyn Hotard - Proclamation - March as American Red Cross Month

Jaclyn Hotard, Parish President, read the proclamation for March as American Red Cross Month.

Jaclyn Hotard - Proclamation - March as National Kidney Month

Jaclyn Hotard, Parish President, read the proclamation for March as National Kidney Month.

MOTION: Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin moved and Councilman Torres seconded the motion to amend the agenda to allow Travis Perrilloux to provide an update on the Coronavirus. The motion passed unanimously.

Travis Perrilloux stated, "Good Evening Council. We've been in contact with Federal and State and, also our local stakeholders, we've held meetings in EOC in reference to the coronavirus. In Public Safety we are aggressively monitoring and alerting our Council, as well as School Board, and of course we're including our private and public-school systems in this. We're getting messages out via social media, stating what to do to mitigate against this coronavirus, as well as watching what's going on within the national/international media as this situation moves. It is fluent, every morning we look at the CDC and at some sort of change that's occurred, and every morning you all, as well as the stakeholders

in the Parish, the Sheriff, as well as the Port, they're all getting messages from me as well any updates I get from the CDC, as well as the Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay and I think well I'm not sure, I kept wondering when it was going to hit Louisiana, and I think it happened yesterday?"

Travis Perrilloux stated, "Yes."

Councilman Madere stated, "And I think we have more cases today."

Travis Perrilloux stated, "Today!"

Councilman Madere stated, "You know, so I'm glad you were able to give us an update, I know you keep us abreast on everything that's going on."

Travis Perrilloux stated, "And what's happening is presumptive, so the, even though they had a hit here with those three, they're still going to send those test samples up to the CDC in Atlanta to confirm."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay."

Councilwoman Houston stated, "He answered my question. I just wanted you to explain what presumptive was, and what the process was to get it confirmed but you did, thank you."

Councilman Madere stated, "And Ms. Hotard, if you don't mind, could you brief the council and maybe the general public on what the/we're doing over at the main building, I think Robert sent us some information, you know I think it's just good to get it out to the citizens."

Jaclyn Hotard stated, "Thank you, and I did send an email out but I agree, so that the general public knows and we had a meeting in the EOC yesterday. We asked all of our janitorial staff, even though it's things that they were already doing, but to pay special attention to you know; the elevator buttons, the door knobs, the door knobs on the bathrooms and to make sure that they're using products that will actually kill these types of viruses, you know a Lysol type product, they even brought up like Fabuloso, some of these products don't actually kill viruses, so we instructed them to begin doing that. Even in our staff meeting this morning, we even talked about making sure each department has the things to wet your fingers, you know you don't think about it but even if you lick your finger, you touch paperwork and that gets passed around, so to make sure that we have all of that available. We've also contacted or had someone get with our warehouse to make sure that each department does have Lysol, you know wipes and things like that. However, to use it with the understanding, you know if you do have an asthmatic you know person in your department, you don't want to you know choke anyone out with Lysol, but just making sure we're doing everything that we can and that we have all of the necessary products available. The biggest thing is washing your hands, it's something that you know we're supposed to do but when something like this happens it makes us just so much more aware of it. You touch this microphone, this might've been touched 200 times today, you know we think about washing our hands after we use the bathroom right, well we really don't think about all the other surfaces that we do touch that are probably you know even worse, but we've you know, we've started to make all of our you know

employees just really aware, send out communications, and make sure they have everything available to disinfect their areas. Wipe their computer keyboards down, you know these kinds of things and we're providing that to them."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay, I just thought it was important that you know that the citizens was aware you know the council and administration was being proactive. Okay and like I said, Travis always give us an update everyday - he does a tremendous job at that, I just wanted to make sure that the citizens had an opportunity to hear what was going on at the main building, because in any, I couldn't even tell you how many people go to that building on a given day, you know so, it's good to know that precaution is being taken, you know taking place over there."

Jaclyn Hotard stated, "You know especially in bill pay, that's another high traffic area, all of the people who maybe just put their hands on the counters, we've asked our janitorial to make special/pay special attention to those areas, in the event that means wiping down a little bit more. And, also, we want to remind you know residents, public alike, to make that information that they get is from a reliable source. You know often times social media starts circulating things that just aren't true, which is harmful, because sometimes when there is something that is accurate out there, we dismiss it, because we think it's something else that's not accurate. Like Center for Disease Control, you know Department of Health & Hospitals, all of those sources are accurate information and we're making sure we continue to share that information, because all of this is new to everyone. So, we want to share the most accurate information, just like the presumptive positives, we talked about that! What is that mean? A person tested positive with a local test that we have from state level, however, only the CDC can actually confirm that person has Coronavirus. So, just making sure that all of that factual information gets out there, you know of course they don't want anyone to panic they want everyone to stay calm, however, you know I know there's this sense of, of panic."

Councilwoman Houston stated, "Yeah I want to suggest maybe in where the bills are being paid in the public area, that you put the hand sanitizers there for the public to use."

Jaclyn Hotard stated, "We talked about that in staff, we did talk about that in staff meeting and the ones that are electronic I know like at Southern they had them all over, I'm sure all the colleges have them all over..."

Councilwoman Houston interrupting stated, "Yeah, the library does they have those."

Jaclyn Hotard stated, "We talked about that yesterday, they have them now?"

Travis Perrilloux stated, "Yes."

Jaclyn Hotard stated, "They have them now, but thank you. And any other suggestions you know that you have, send them over to us, if it's something that we're not doing we're definitely will go over our heads together to make sure we're covering all of our bases to keep our employees and the public safe as possible."

Councilman Madere stated, "One thing they're telling the public, if you feel bad,

they say to stay home you know, go see the doctor. Okay, cuz I mean that's advice that's being given all over you know, so I'm glad to know that we're being proactive over at the building over cuz, it's a high traffic area. Okay, any other comments, thank yawl."

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - February 26th, 2020, Regular Meeting; Councilwoman Houston - Re-appointment of Robert Taylor to the Economic Development Committee; Councilwoman Houston - Re-appointment of Bernell Charles, Sr. to the Parish wide Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board; Permit Approval - 7th Annual Sings and Strings Festival - Sunday, April 5th, 2020 - Garyville Timbermill Museum beginning at 11:00 AM until 7:00 PM; Councilman Becnel - Appointment of Councilman Lennix Madere to the Citizen Action Advisory Board; Councilman Becnel - Appointment of Elizabeth "Betty" Joseph to the River Parish Tourist Commission

MOTION: Councilman Malik moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda item consisting of Approval of Minutes - February 26th, 2020, Regular Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda item Councilwoman Houston - Re-appointment of Robert Taylor to the Economic Development Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilwoman Duhé-Griffin seconded the motion to approve Consent Agenda item Councilwoman Houston - Re-appointment of Bernell Charles, Sr. to the Parish wide Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilman Malik moved and Councilman Torres seconded the motion to approve Consent Agenda item Permit Approval - 7th Annual Sings and Strings Festival - Sunday, April 5th, 2020 - Garyville Timbermill Museum beginning at 11:00 AM until 7:00 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to approve Consent Agenda item Councilman Becnel - Appointment of Councilman Lennix Madere to the Citizen Action Advisory Board. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Consent Agenda item Councilman Becnel - Appointment of Elizabeth "Betty" Joseph to the River Parish Tourist Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION ON ORDINANCES:

20-03 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to rescind Ordinance 15-23, which reads: Ord. 15-23 An ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article III of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances as follows: By adding the Following: Sec. 2-63. Temporary Employees (T. Malik)

MOTION: Councilman Malik moved and Councilman Torres seconded the motion to remove Ordinance 20-03 from the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Wright stated, "At this time I'll offer a motion to approve the minutes from the finance meeting."

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the finance meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Lennix Madere - Discussion regarding Private/Public roads and servitudes throughout the Parish

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay, the reason why I put this on the agenda cuz they had several things came up since the last council meeting, concerning roads and signs. One particular item (not going to call a name), because that's something, I'm just not gonna name. The individual built a house, and she put a driveway that goes to her house, and a sign was up there, all the blue signs indicate private roads. And there's a blue sign been up there since 1996, and then the other day the parish went and removed the blue sign and put a green sign, because someone else is building a house on the lot next to her, and the parish claiming now that it's a public road. Well, we need to get these things straight as to what is public and what is private. I went over to Planning & Zoning and I found out there's quite a few streets, that's in question whether they're private or public. Okay, private have always been indicated by blue signs, and public have always been indicated by green signs. But I also was informed that when they run out of green signs, they put blue signs. So, I can't I can't verify that for sure, but I was told that you understand it's here say you know, but we need to find out for sure exactly what is private and what is public, okay! Now I do know the parish after I did a little research, I find out the parish do have across individual property they call right-of-way, to get to our different things that we have like that, have a right-of-way. But just the right of passage does not make it a public road, it's not making it a public road. It needs to have the right to pass on that particular property to go back there and do what they have to do, and then we have some other areas where we have a blue sign and the streets been paved by the parish, okay in years past."

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

20-04 An ordinance amending ordinance 19-49 relative to the annual operating budgets for St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds, and Capital Project Funds for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020. (J. Hotard)

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:35 PM, Councilman Malik moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with unanimously.

/s/Lennix Madere, Jr.
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary

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