

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**  
**CHAIRMAN MICHAEL WRIGHT**  
**VICE-CHAIR LENNIX MADERE**

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, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:00 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**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, Michael Wright, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B, Thomas Malik, Councilman District VII

**ABSENT:** None

Councilman Becnel led the Prayer. Councilwoman Schnyder led the Pledge.

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

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

There were no public comments.

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

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to nominate Councilman Thomas Malik as the Chairman of the Parish Council. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to nominate Councilman Kurt Becnel as the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 2 abstaining (Duhe-Griffin, Schnyder) and 1 against (Torres).

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**ITEMS:** Approval of Minutes - December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Council Meeting; Permit Approval - West St. John Civic Association, Annual March and Memorial Program in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 beginning at Noon at the Roland Borne Sr. Memorial Library in Edgard

**MOTION:** Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve consent agenda item - Approval of Minutes - December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Council Meeting; Permit Approval - West St. John Civic Association, Annual March and Memorial Program in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 beginning at Noon at the Roland Borne Sr. Memorial Library in Edgard. The motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS:**

**President's Report**

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

**22-59** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the rezoning of proposed Lot 1A of the Willie Jacob Subdivision, located in the area generally bounded by Highway 44, E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street, & E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA from the Residential District One (R-1) & the Commercial District Two (C-2), as shown in Exhibit 1 attached (PZR-22-1347) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 22-59. The motion passed unanimously.

**Robert Arcuri - Resolution - R23-01 - A Resolution to express disapproval of a proposed seismic survey and construction of two Class V test injection wells by Air Products in the Lake Maurepas bottom. These seismic surveys and test wells by Air Products is the first step to determine if the area under Lake Maurepas is suitable for Carbon Capture and Storage of vast quantities of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) thousands of feet beneath the lake. The Parish Council is opposed to the location of this project, and this resolution is a method to voice our opposition and concerns on this project**

**MOTION:** Councilman Arcuri moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to edit Resolution R23-01 to remove the words "and residents of St. John Parish are. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Councilman Arcuri moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R23-01. A Resolution to express disapproval of a proposed seismic survey and construction of two Class V test injection wells by Air Products in the Lake Maurepas bottom. These seismic surveys and test wells by Air Products is the first step to determine if the area under Lake Maurepas is suitable for Carbon Capture and Storage of vast quantities of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) thousands of feet beneath the lake. The Parish Council is opposed to the location of this project, and this resolution is a method to voice our opposition and concerns on this project. **WHEREAS**, roughly two thirds of Lake Maurepas is located in St John the Baptist Parish, **WHEREAS**, St. John Parish supplies well water from a deep aquifer adjacent to Lake Maurepas to Laplace residents, **WHEREAS**, Lake Maurepas is surrounded by Cypress/Tupelo swamplands that are critical to sustain fisheries in the lake and also habitat for countless species of wildlife, **WHEREAS**, Air Products would have to build a pipeline through the Cypress/Tupelo swampland in several adjacent parishes to connect their industrial site in Accession Parish to Lake Maurepas, **WHEREAS**, there are alternative sites that could be considered, such as depleted oil fields in the Gulf of Mexico, **WHEREAS**, other proposed Carbon Capture and Storage projects (CCS) are investigating and proposing such projects in the Gulf of Mexico, **WHEREAS**, St John Parish would not monetarily benefit from this project, **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the St. John the Baptist Parish Council expresses disapproval of a proposed seismic survey and construction of two Class V test injection wells by Air Products in the Lake Maurepas bottom. The motion passed with 6 yeas and 3 against (Duhe-Griffin, Schnyder and Torres).

**Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-02 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to award the Design Services for the Animal Shelter to Architects Beazley Moliere + Longo Architecture Studio, A Joint Venture**

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R23-02. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to award the Design Services for the Animal Shelter to Architects Beazley Moliere + Longo Architecture Studio, A Joint Venture. **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**, Architects Beazley Moliere + Longo Architecture Studio, a Joint Venture of Lafayette, LA ranked first out of three (3) qualification packages received; and, **WHEREAS**, the Animal Shelter sustained extensive damages due to Hurricane Ida and needs to be re-constructed to its operational use; and, **WHEREAS**, the Architect will provide a needs assessment and recommendations on the current facility; and, **WHEREAS**, the estimated cost of the Agreement is for a not to exceed amount of \$22,800 and will be funded through the Animal Shelter 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 Design Services for the Animal Shelter to Architects Beazley Moliere + Longo Architecture Studio, A Joint Venture. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 against (Torres).

**Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-03 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with River Parishes Tourist Authority (RPTA)**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R23-03 A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with River Parishes Tourist Authority (RPTA) **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 Agreement will continue transportation services for St. John residents; and, **WHEREAS**, the required annual match is \$125,000 and is funded through the Economic Development Department. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that St. John the Baptist Parish is hereby authorized to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with River Parishes Transit Authority. The motion passed unanimously.

**Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-04 - A Resolution authorizing St. the Baptist Parish President to execute Change Order No. 2 with Kass Bros, Inc. for the Carrollwood Drive Rehabilitation Project**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Schnyder moved and Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R23-04. A Resolution authorizing St. the Baptist Parish President to execute Change Order No. 2 with Kass Bros, Inc. for the Carrollwood Drive Rehabilitation 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**, Change Order No. 2 decreases the original Agreement amount by \$116,849 and adds an additional thirty-one (31) calendar days; and, **WHEREAS**, the decrease is due to the adjustment of quantities of material needed for the project; and, **WHEREAS**, Change Order No. 2 will be funded through the Public Works 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 Council to execute Change Order No. 2 between St. John the Baptist Parish and Kass Bros, Inc. The motion passed unanimously.

**Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-05 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute Change Order No. 3 with Veterans Construction, LLC for the St. John Theatre Hurricane Ida Disaster Repairs Project**

**MOTION:** Councilman Arcuri moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R23-05. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute Change Order No. 3 with Veterans Construction, LLC for the St. John Theatre Hurricane Ida Disaster Repairs 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**, Change Order No. 3 increases the original contract amount by \$11,162.37; and, **WHEREAS**, additional costs are due to additional damages that were identified during final walkthrough; and, **WHEREAS**, the increase 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 Veterans Construction, LLC. The motion passed unanimously.

**Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-06 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute the Certificate of Substantial Completion with Veterans Construction, LLC for the St. John Theatre Hurricane Ida Disaster Repairs Project**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Schnyder moved and Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-06. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute the Certificate of Substantial Completion with Veterans Construction, LLC for the St. John Theatre Hurricane Ida Disaster Repairs 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**, this project has been deemed substantially complete by the Project Engineer; and, **WHEREAS**, all punch list items were identified and are near completion. **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 Certificate of Substantial Completion between St. John the Baptist Parish and Veterans Construction, LLC. The motion passed unanimously.

**Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-07 - A Resolution authorizing St.**

**John the Baptist Parish President to execute the Certificate of Substantial Completion with Del-Con, LLC for the Hurricane Ida Building Repairs in Reserve and Garyville**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-07. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute the Certificate of Substantial Completion with Del-Con, LLC for the Hurricane Ida Building Repairs in Reserve and Garyville. **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 project has been deemed substantially complete by the Project Engineer; and, **WHEREAS**, all punch list items were identified and are near completion. **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 Certificate of Substantial Completion between St. John the Baptist Parish and Del-Con, LLC. The motion passed unanimously.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**23-01** An ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of [Thirty Million Dollars (\$30,000,000)] of Hurricane Recovery Notes of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana; and providing for other matters in connection therewith (J. Hotard)

**23-02** An ordinance amending Chapter 113 - Zoning, Article IV - District Regulations, Division 2. Rural District (Rural) Sec. 113-165. Permitted uses to add: (16) Medical Clinics and Division 13. Industrial District One (I-1) Sec. 113-365. Permitted uses to remove the crossed out "in connection only with Industrial activity": (8) Medical clinics ~~in connection only with industrial activity~~ (See attached exhibit) (K. Becnel and T. Malik)

**23-03** An ordinance to amend Chapter 36 - Streets, Sidewalks and other Public Places, to add the following: Transferring of Public Street to Private Ownership (R. Arcuri)

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss *Raynell Hampton v. Jovon Clement and St. John the Baptist Parish*, Docket No. 76046, *Kerry Felton v. Atlantic Specialty Insurance Co., St. John the Baptist Parish and Richard Jones*, 40th JDC Docket No. 78185 and *Tangi Pierre v. Atlantic Specialty Insurance Co., St. John the Baptist Parish and Patricia Ballansaw*, 40<sup>th</sup> JDC Docket No. 77587. The motion passed unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

*Raynell Hampton v. Jovon Clement and St. John the Baptist Parish*, Docket No. 76046

*Kerry Felton v. Atlantic Specialty Insurance Co., St. John the Baptist Parish and*

Richard Jones, 40th JDC Docket No. 78185

*Tangi Pierre v. Atlantic Specialty Insurance Co., St. John the Baptist Parish and Patricia Ballansaw, 40<sup>th</sup> JDC Docket No. 77587*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to go back into Regular Session. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion in the case of Raynell Hampton v. Jovon Clement and St. John the Baptist Parish, Docket No. 76046 to authorize our attorneys to enter into settlement negotiations. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion in the case of Kerry Felton v. Atlantic Specialty Insurance Co., St. John the Baptist Parish and Richard Jones, 40th JDC Docket No. 78185 to authorize our attorneys to enter into settlement negotiations. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion in the case of Tangi Pierre v. Atlantic Specialty Insurance Co., St. John the Baptist Parish and Patricia Ballansaw, 40<sup>th</sup> JDC Docket No. 77587 to grant our attorneys authorization to settle as advised. The motion passed unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:22 PM, Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Thomas Malik  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary