

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 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, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:00 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**ROLL CALL:** Lennix Madere, Jr., Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Michael Wright, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B, Kurt Becnel, Councilman District I, Tammy Houston, Councilwoman District III, , Robert Arcuri, Councilman District V, Tonia Schnyder, Councilwoman District VI,

**ABSENT:** Duhe-Griffin, Faucheux and Torres

Councilman Arcuri 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)**

**Jaclyn Hotard - Proclamation - October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**ITEMS:** Approval of Minutes - September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Council Meeting; Parish President Jaclyn Hotard - Appointment of Natalie Tatje to the Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Arcuri seconded the motion to approve the amended consent agenda items - Approval of Minutes - September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Council Meeting; Parish President Jaclyn Hotard - Appointment of Natalie Tatje to the Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee. The motion passed with Councilwomen Duhe-Griffin, Faucheux and Councilman Torres absent.

**REPORTS:**

**President's Report**

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

**23-45** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the installation of fiber optic cables at St. Peter Catholic Church located at 1550 LA-44, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA (Permit No. 16938) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23-45. The motion passed with Councilwomen Duhe-Griffin, Faucheux and Councilman Torres absent.

**23-46** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the resubdivision of Lot 12 and a portion of Lot 13 located at 154 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA (PZS-23-1363) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23-46. The motion passed with Councilwomen Duhe-Griffin, Faucheux and Councilman Torres absent.

**23-47** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the resubdivision of Lot P located at 827 Walnut Street, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA (PZS-23-1366) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

**MOTION:** Councilman Arcuri moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23-47. The motion passed with Councilwomen Duhe-Griffin, Faucheux and Councilman Torres absent.

**23-48** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the resubdivision of a portion of the Stebbins Lumber and Supply Company Lot, bounded by a portion of North Church Street, Timbermill Loop, the Garyville Timbermill Museum, and Bourgeois Town Street, Garyville, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA (PZS-23-1368) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23-48. The motion passed with Councilwomen Duhe-Griffin, Faucheux and Councilman Torres absent.

**23-49** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the conditional approval of Dool Double O-O's Subdivision for the creation of the Kirk & Karen Scott Lot, the Jack & Lamouth Jr. & Alicia Lot, Lots PB-1, 1, 2, 1W - 31W, & 1E, commencing at the intersection of Dool Drive and Highway 18, Wallace, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA (PZS-23-1369) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

**MOTION:** Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to postpone Ordinance 23-49 until the October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Council Meeting. The motion passed with Councilwomen Duhe-Griffin, Faucheux and Councilman Torres absent.

**23-50** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the resubdivision of a portion of Lot D located at 141 Ash Street, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA (PZS-23-1371) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

**MOTION:** Councilman Becnel moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23-50. The motion passed with Councilwomen Duhe-Griffin, Faucheux and Councilman Torres absent.

**23-51** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the resubdivision of Lot 1A and 5A, Cali Subdivision No. 2 and a 40' road of Farm Lot 29 of Woodland Plantation, located on Cardinal Drive, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA (PZS-23-1372) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

**MOTION:** Councilman Arcuri moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23-51. The motion passed with Councilwomen Duhe-Griffin, Faucheux and Councilman Torres absent.

**23-52** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the resubdivision of the Gerald Gaudia, Sr. Tract into Lot 1 and the remainder of the Gerald Gaudia, Sr. Tract, located on West 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Wallace, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA (PZS-23-1360) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

**MOTION:** Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23-52. The motion passed with Councilwomen Duhe-Griffin, Faucheux and Councilman Torres absent.

**23-53** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to extend the provisions of Chapter 5 of Title 11 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, for the purpose of providing retirement benefits to the eligible officers and Employees of the St. John the Baptist Parish Public Defender's Office, a taxing district or political subdivision of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana (J. Hotard)

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23-53. The motion passed with Councilwomen Duhe-Griffin, Faucheux and Councilman Torres absent.

**Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-198 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to advertise Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Emergency Preparedness Support FEMA Substantial Damage Determinations Services**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-198. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to advertise Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Emergency Preparedness Support FEMA Substantial Damage Determinations Services. 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 assistance of FEMA may be necessary in the Parish's recovery efforts depending on the severity and damages as a result of a natural or manmade disaster; and, WHEREAS, this request is to improve local disaster emergency preparedness, specifically to procure planning, data management, and floodplain management support in advance of the next event; and, WHEREAS, these services are necessary to effectively and efficiently complete the required FEMA Substantial Damage Determinations (SDs). NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that St. John the Baptist Parish is hereby authorized to advertise Request for Qualifications for Emergency Preparedness Support FEMA Substantial Damage Determinations Services. The motion passed with Councilwomen Duhe-Griffin, Faucheux and Councilman Torres absent.

**Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-199 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to award the bid for the Lake Pontchartrain Shoreline Protection Project to Rigid Constructors, LLC**

**MOTION:** Councilman Arcuri moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-199. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to award the bid for the Lake Pontchartrain Shoreline Protection Project to Rigid Constructors, LLC. 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, Rigid Constructors, LLC of Lafayette, LA submitted the lowest responsive and responsible bid in the amount of \$9,069,451; and, WHEREAS, this breakwater project is intended to reduce shoreline erosion along Lake Pontchartrain; and, WHEREAS, project will add linear feet to reach the St. Charles Parish boundary and adjacent to the existing USACE Breakwater; and, WHEREAS, the project will be funded through GOMESA Funds. 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 the Lake Pontchartrain Shoreline Protection Project to Rigid Constructors, LLC. The motion passed with Councilwomen Duhe-Griffin, Faucheux and Councilman Torres absent.

**Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-200 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to award the bid for the St. John Hurricane Ida Damage Repairs to Sewer Lift Stations in Reserve, Garyville and West Bank to J. Caldarera & Company, Inc.**

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-200. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to award the bid for the St. John Hurricane Ida Damage Repairs to Sewer Lift Stations in Reserve, Garyville and West Bank to J. Caldarera & Company, 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, J. Caldarera & Company, Inc. of LaPlace, LA submitted the lowest responsive and responsible bid in the amount of \$370,911; and, WHEREAS, twenty-seven (27) sewer lift stations in Reserve, Garyville and West Bank are in need of repairs due to damages sustained from Hurricane Ida; and, WHEREAS, repairs required include fencing, electrical repairs, control panel replacements and lighting repairs; and, WHEREAS, the project 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 award the bid for the St. John Hurricane Ida Damage Repairs to Sewer Lift Stations in Reserve, Garyville and West Bank to J. Caldarera & Company, Inc. The motion passed with Councilwomen Duhe-Griffin, Faucheux and Councilman Torres absent.

**Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-201 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to award the bid for the hurricane Ida National Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) Drainage Canal Cleaning Phase 2 Project to Grillot Construction, LLC**

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Becnel the motion to approve Resolution R23-201. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to award the bid for the hurricane Ida National Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) Drainage Canal Cleaning Phase 2 Project to Grillot Construction, LLC. 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, Grillot Construction, LLC of Belle Chasse, LA submitted the lowest responsive and responsible bid in the amount of \$1,404,523; and, WHEREAS, due to damages caused by Hurricane Ida, drainage canal clearing is required; and,

WHEREAS, this project will include the clearing and snagging of fallen trees and debris from seventeen (17) drainage canals throughout the Parish; and, WHEREAS, the project will be funded from 90% of eligible NRCS Funds with a 10% match. 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 Hurricane Ida NRCS Drainage Canal Cleaning Phase 2 Project. The motion passed with Councilwomen Duhe-Griffin, Faucheux and Councilman Torres absent.

**Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-202 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Meyer Engineers, Ltd. for the St. John Sidewalks (LA 628 - Main Street to Emily C. Watkins) Project**

**MOTION:** Councilman Arcuri moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-202. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Meyer Engineers, Ltd. for the St. John Sidewalks (LA 628 - Main Street to Emily C. Watkins) 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, Meyer Engineers, Ltd. Of Metairie, LA has been selected for the St. John Sidewalk Project from Main Street to Emily C. Watkins; and, WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Transportation (DOTD) approved this project to be included in the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP); and, WHEREAS, the estimated cost of the Agreement is for a not to exceed amount of \$158,289 and will be funded by 90% of Federal Grant Funds with a 10% match. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, St. John the Baptist Parish is hereby authorized to enter into a Professional Services Agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and Meyer Engineers, Ltd. For the St. John Sidewalks (LA 628-Main Street to Emily C. Watkins School) Project. The motion passed with Councilwomen Duhe-Griffin, Faucheux and Councilman Torres absent.

**Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-203 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Beazley Longo Shelter Design for Design Services of the Animal Shelter**

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-203. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Beazley Longo Shelter Design for Design Services of the Animal Shelter. 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, Beazley Longo Shelter Design of Lafayette, LA will provide design services for the renovation and connection of two (2) existing animal care building located at 488 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in LaPlace; and, WHEREAS, the main Animal Shelter building is also in need of repairs due to termite and water damage; and, WHEREAS, the main Animal Shelter building has been out of commission for multiple years, therefore most of the mechanical systems may need a total replacement; and, WHEREAS, the goal is to provide a functioning and working Animal Shelter Facility by utilizing, improving, repairing, and connecting existing buildings; and, WHEREAS, the

estimated cost of the Agreement is for a not to exceed amount of \$122,560 and will be funded through the Animal Shelter Budget. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, St. John the Baptist Parish is hereby authorized to enter into a Professional Services Agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and Beazley Longo Shelter Design for the Design Services of the Animal Shelter. The motion passed with Councilwomen Duhe-Griffin, Faucheux and Councilman Torres absent.

**Jaclyn Hotard/Tara Lambeth - Resolution - R23-204 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to apply for a grant through the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE ACT) Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Arcuri seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-204. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to apply for a grant through the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE ACT) Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund. 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 RESTORE Act requires funds be used for the ecological and economic restoration of the Gulf Coast region, including restoration and protection of coastal wetlands, infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, and planning assistance; and WHEREAS, the Parish aims to apply for funding for a Master Plan for the Manchac Greenway; and, WHEREAS, the Master Plan will develop conceptual improvements for evaluation and implementation along the greenway, including projects for improved access to outdoor recreation and natural resources; increased connectivity for multimodal transportation; economic development through eco-tourism; and protection/preservation of wetlands, wildlife habitat, and natural areas; and WHEREAS, the development of a Master Plan is necessary for the continued improvement of the Manchac Greenway in order to channel future grant funds to the greenway; and WHEREAS, all applicants must provide a Title VI Narrative approved by the applicant's board of directors or appropriate governing entity or official(s) responsible for policy decisions prior to submission to Treasury (see attachment). THE ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES: SECTION I. To authorize and support St. John the Baptist Parish in its application to the RESTORE Act Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund. SECTION II. To authorize the Office of the Parish President and all applicable Parish Departments to support and cooperate with efforts to compile all necessary information and data required for the application and for subsequent grant administration. SECTION III. To authorize the Parish President to sign any and all documents required for the RESTORE Act Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund. The motion passed with Councilwomen Duhe-Griffin, Faucheux and Councilman Torres absent.

**Jaclyn Hotard - Resolution - R23-205 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) for contributions to the operating subsidy for intercity rail services between Baton Rouge and New Orleans**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to

approve Resolution R23-205. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) for contributions to the operating subsidy for intercity rail services between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. 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 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, La. R.S. 48:2165 expresses the Louisiana Legislature's findings that "[p]assenger rail service connecting Baton Rouge and New Orleans is supported by current federal policy and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, which provides billions of dollars for passenger rail improvements and service nationwide" and "[p]assenger rail service connecting Baton Rouge and New Orleans with key stops in Jefferson Parish, LaPlace, Gonzales, and the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport is a key project in the 2021, *More Trains. More Cities. Better Service: Amtrak's Vision for Improving Transportation Across America*"; and WHEREAS, maintenance and operation of a station will provide a means of transportation to residents of the Parish; and WHEREAS, DOTD and the Parish desire to share in the costs associated with operation of the intercity rail service between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, as described in the terms and conditions of the CEA. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that Parish President, Jaclyn Hotard, is hereby authorized and empowered on behalf of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council to enter into a CEA with DOTD. The motion passed with Councilwomen Duhe-Griffin, Faucheux and Councilman Torres absent.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**23-54** An ordinance approving the rezoning of Property No. 3, Block 5, Industrial Park South, in the area generally bounded by West Airline Highway, West 19<sup>th</sup> Street, and Transport Road, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA from Industrial District Two (I-2) to the Industrial District Three (I-3) (PZR-23-1465) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

**23-55** An ordinance approving the resubdivision of Property No. 3, Block 5, Industrial Park South, in the area generally bounded by West Airline Highway, West 19<sup>th</sup> Street, and Transport Road, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA (PZS-23-1373) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 6:38 PM, Councilwoman Houston moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned with Councilwomen Duhe-Griffin, Faucheux and Councilman Torres absent.

/s/Michael Wright  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary