

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**  
**CHAIRMAN KURT BECNEL**  
**VICE-CHAIR MICHAEL WRIGHT**

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, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 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

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

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

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

There were no public comments.

**Jaclyn Hotard - Recognition - Office of Fire Services Unit Meritorious Award - Hurricane Ida Rescue**

Jaclyn Hotard, Parish President, recognized the Office of Fire Services Unit Meritorious Award - Hurricane Ida Rescue.

Jaclyn Hotard, Parish President stated, *"We placed this item on the agenda as Down Syndrome Awareness Month. However, it was just an error, and if we can have a motion to remove that item and then add what should have been there, National Prematurity Awareness Month. Sorry about that."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to remove the item Proclamation - October as Down Syndrome Awareness Month. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard, Parish President stated, *"We would need to suspend the rules to amend the agenda to add this particular Proclamation - National Prematurity Awareness Month. And as I stated it was an error, my office sent it over they sent Down Syndrome Awareness Month. However, we're recognizing National Prematurity Awareness Month. So, my request would be that we suspend the rules to amend the agenda to add this proclamation on there."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to suspend the rules in accordance with Robert's Rules to add Proclamation -

National Prematurity Awareness Month. The motion passed unanimously.

**Jaclyn Hotard - Proclamation - National Prematurity Awareness Month**

Jaclyn Hotard, Parish President, read the Proclamation - National Prematurity Awareness Month.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**ITEMS:** Approval of Minutes - October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Council Meeting; Permit Approval - Christ of King Procession - Sunday, November 21, 2021 - 3:30 PM beginning at Ascension of Our Lord Catholic Church

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Arcuri seconded the motion to approve consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Council Meeting; Permit Approval - Christ of King Procession - Sunday, November 21, 2021 - 3:30 PM beginning at Ascension of Our Lord Catholic Church. The motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS:**

**President's Report:**

**Tom Malik - Finance Committee Report:**

Councilman Malik stated, "Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Finance Committee met prior to this meeting, it was attended by all and all four (4) motions passed, resolutions passed, R21-151, R21-152, R21-153 and R21-154."

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

**21-41**(Public Hearing Held) An ordinance authorizing the acceptance of improvements and granting final subdivision approval of Coles Place, Phase 2 & 3, Lots 63-A through 91-A, Lots V-2B, and V-2C, as shown in a survey prepared by Stephen P. Flynn, P.L.S. on April 19, 2021 (PZS-21-1270) (J. Hotard)

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 21-41. The motion passed unanimously.

**21-42** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance introducing the annual operating budgets for the St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds, Capital Projects Funds, and Debit Service Funds for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022 (J. Hotard)

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to TABLE Ordinance 21-42. The motion passed unanimously.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

There were no department/engineer reports.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

There was no introduction of ordinances.

**MOTION:** Councilman Malik moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss *Bienville Jackson v. Thomas Berthelot, Sheila Berthelot, Family Homes by Tommy and Sheila, Inc., and St. John the Baptist Parish, Docket No. C-75695; St. John the Baptist Parish District Attorney vs. St. John the Baptist Parish, et al., Docket No. C-77055.* The motion passed unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

*Bienville Jackson v. Thomas Berthelot, Sheila Berthelot, Family Homes by Tommy and Sheila, Inc., St. John the Baptist Parish, Docket No. C-75695*

*St. John the Baptist Parish District Attorney vs. St. John the Baptist Parish, et al., Docket No. C-77055*

**MOTION:** Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Malik stated, "There was no action taken on the first executive session item."

**MOTION:** Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to authorize the Parish President to engage legal services with the law firm Stanley, Reuter, Ross, Thorton & Alford LLC, as special counsel to represent the Council in the matter of *St. John the Baptist Parish District Attorney vs. St. John the Baptist Parish, et al., Docket No. C-77055.* The rate for these services shall be in accordance with the Attorney General guidelines as per statute. The motion passed unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

/s/Kurt P. Becnel  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary