

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14<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, November 14<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, Warren Torres, Councilman District II, Tammy Houston, Councilwoman District III, Tyra Duhe-Griffin, Councilwoman District IV, Robert Arcuri, Councilman District V, Tonia Schnyder, Councilwoman District VI, Tanya Faucheux, Councilwoman District VII

**ABSENT:** None

Councilman Becnel led the Prayer and Councilman Madere led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel was present.

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

There was no public comment at this time.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**ITEMS:** Approval of Minutes - October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Council Meeting

**MOTION:** Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items - Approval of Minutes - October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Council Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS:**

**President's Report**

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

**23-56** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the resubdivision of Lot 7, Lot 7A, the Y & MV Railroad right of way east of Lot 7, the 50' road between Lot 7 and Lot 7A, and the batture from the west right of way of LA Highway 628 located on Highway 628, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA (PZS-23-1365) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

**MOTION:** Councilman Arcuri moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23-56. The motion passed unanimously.

**23-57** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the resubdivision of Lots 216 and 217 of Lac Des Allemands Cove Subdivision located at 235 Rue St. John,

Vacherie, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA (PZS-23-1374) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

**MOTION:** Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23-57. The motion passed unanimously.

**23-58** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the resubdivision of portions of tracts 23, 24, 25, and 26 of Cornland Plantation located at 3550 West Airline Highway, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA (PZS-23-1376) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23-58. The motion passed unanimously.

**23-59** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the closure of a public street and the creation of a private street within a gated townhouse community beginning approximately 70 feet from the intersection of the Southwest right of way of Highway 628 and Sugar Pine Street, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA (PZR-23-1480) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

**MOTION:** Councilman Arcuri moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23-59. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 against (Torres).

**23-60** (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, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024. (See attached amendments) (J. Hotard)

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23-60. The motion passed with 6 yeas and 3 against (Duhé-Griffin, Schnyder, Torres).

**Jaclyn Hotard/Travis Perrilloux - Resolution - R23-223 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with the Pontchartrain Levee District for the 2023 Festival of Bonfires**

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-223. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with the Pontchartrain Levee District for the 2023 Festival of Bonfires. 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 is required with the Pontchartrain Levee District for the Festival of the Bonfires; and, WHEREAS, the insurance requirement will be satisfied with a \$2M policy at a cost of \$5,000; and, WHEREAS, the premium will be funded through the Public Safety 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 the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Pontchartrain Levee District for the 2023 Festival of the Bonfires. The motion passed unanimously.

**Jaclyn Hotard/Stacey Cador - Resolution - R23-224 - A Resolution authorizing St.**

**John the Baptist Parish to award the Parish's Group Health Insurance to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana**

**MOTION:** Councilman Becnel moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-224. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to award the Parish's Group Health Insurance to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana. 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, Blue Cross Blue Shield through Tatje Insurance and Financial Products was ranked first out of two (2) proposals received and reviewed by the Source Selection Committee; and, WHEREAS, the 2024 premium reflects a 21.8% increase over the expiring premium; and, WHEREAS, the premium is funded through Departmental Funds and Payroll Deductions. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that St. John the Baptist Parish is hereby authorized to renew the Parish's Group Health Insurance with Blue Cross Blue Shield. The motion passed unanimously.

**Cain Dufrene/Jason Akers - Resolution - R23-225 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to purchase three (3) fire trucks**

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-225. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to purchase three (3) fire trucks. WHEREAS, Article IV, Section H(5) of the St. John the Baptist Parish Home Rule Charter permits the Parish Council to adopt a resolution authorizing a ministerial act related to the administrative business of the Parish; and WHEREAS, the Fire Department is in need of three new fire trucks; and, WHEREAS, the trucks will be purchased through a State Contract and funded initially from the Economic Development Fund and the Health Unit Fund, subject to reimbursement as set forth herein. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that St. John the Baptist Parish is hereby authorized to purchase three (3) Fire Trucks. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funds to be paid for the Fire Trucks, when due, may be paid from the Parish's Economic Development Fund and the Health Unit Fund; provided, however, that it is the intent of this Parish Council that any funds so advanced from either such fund will be reimbursed to such fund by the Office of Fire Services on an annual basis as shall be determined and budgeted by this Parish Council. The motion passed with 7 yeas, 1 abstaining (Schnyder) and 1 against (Torres).

**Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-226 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to award the bid for the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG-CV) Council on Aging HVAC Repairs/Replacement Project to Industrial & Mechanical Contractors, Inc.**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Schnyder moved and Councilman Becnel the motion to approve Resolution R23-226. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to award the bid for the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG-CV) Council on Aging HVAC Repairs/Replacement Project to Industrial & Mechanical Contractors, 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, Industrial & Mechanical Contractors, Inc. of

New Orleans, LA submitted the lowest responsive and responsible bid in the amount of \$228,100; and, WHEREAS, St. John the Baptist Parish has two Council on Aging facilities, one in Reserve and one in Edgard; and, WHEREAS, services will be funded through the LCDBG-CV grant which is purposed to upgrade Parish facility HVAC systems that service low to moderate income residents; and, 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 LCDBG-CV Council on Aging HVAC Repairs/Replacement Project to Industrial & Mechanical Contractors, Inc. The motion passed unanimously.

**Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-227 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Vanguard Utility Service, Inc. for the Installation of Water Meters and Meter Interface Units (MTUs)**

**MOTION:** Councilman Arcuri moved and Councilman Torres seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-227. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Vanguard Utility Service, Inc. for the Installation of Water Meters and Meter Interface Units (MTUs). 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, Vanguard Utility Services, Inc. of Owensboro, KY ranked first out of two (2) proposals received and reviewed by the Source Selection Committee; and, WHEREAS, services will include replacing existing water meters and install MTUs on the remaining 3,886 water meters throughout the Parish; and, WHEREAS, purchases 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 Water Meters and Meter Transmission Units to Badger Meter, Inc. The motion passed unanimously.

**Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-228 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to renew the Professional Services Agreement with Rollo Security Services, Inc. for Armed Security Services**

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-228. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to renew the Professional Services Agreement with Rollo Security Services, Inc. for Armed Security 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, Rollo Security Services, Inc. of LaPlace, LA provides security services for Parish facilities; and, WHEREAS, Renewal No. 2 is the 2<sup>nd</sup> option to renew the original Agreement dated November 26, 2019 for one (1) year; and, WHEREAS, the Renewal maintains the same pricing and is funded through the General Fund. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that St. John the Baptist Parish is hereby authorized to renew the Professional Services Agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and Rollo Security Services, Inc. The motion passed unanimously.

**Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-229 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute the documents and agreements required in implementing all grant applications, amendments and supporting documents through the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Arcuri seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-229. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute the documents and agreements required in implementing all grant applications, amendments and supporting documents through the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP). WHEREAS, GOHSEP assists local, State, Tribal and Federal authorities to prepare for, prevent, respond to, recover from and mitigate against future emergencies and disasters; WHEREAS, federal funds have been made available to the State of Louisiana under the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA); and, WHEREAS, this project addresses property owners that have been impacted by historical flooding throughout the Parish; and, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. John the Baptist Parish Council does hereby authorize the Parish President, Jaclyn Hotard, to execute any and all documents in connection with the FMA Program through GOHSEP. The motion passed unanimously.

**Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-230 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to settle and pay the July 27, 2023, Property Damage Claim to Steven Accardo of 266 S. Church Street, Garyville, LA 70051**

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-230. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to settle and pay the July 27, 2023, Property Damage Claim to Steven Accardo of 266 S. Church Street, Garyville, LA 70051. 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, Louisiana Claims Administrators (LoCA) recommended, and Legal Counsel approved the settlement amount of \$129.79; and, WHEREAS, the settlement will be funded through the Settlement line item of 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 settle and pay the July 27, 2023, Property Damage Claim to Steven Accardo of 266 S. Church Street, Garyville, LA 70051. The motion passed unanimously.

**Travis Perrilloux - Resolution - R23-231 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with St. James Parish, Town of Gramercy, Town of Lutcher, River Parishes Tourist Commission and the Festival of the Bonfires, Inc. to support and promote the Bonfire Festivities**

**MOTION:** Councilman Becnel moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-231. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with St. James Parish, Town of Gramercy, Town of Lutcher, River Parishes Tourist Commission and the Festival of the Bonfires, Inc. to support and promote the Bonfire

Festivities. 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 is required for participation in the annual Bonfire Festivities; and, WHEREAS, permitting will be managed by the Department of Public Safety; and, WHEREAS, the Parish contributes \$21,779.65 toward the payment of the premium required by The Festival of Bonfires and is funded through the Public Safety Department. 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 with St. James Parish, Town of Gramercy, Town of Lutcher, River Parishes Tourist Commission and The Festival of Bonfires, Inc. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Becnel stated, *"Excuse me Chairman, I would like to make a motion to Suspend the Rules to add to the agenda to allow all Parish employees a half a day off on Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"I second the motion."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to Suspend the Rules to add to allow all Parish employees a half a day off on Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday. The motion Failed with 8 yeas and 1 against (Torres).

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**23-61** An ordinance approving the resubdivision of Lot 8, Square 3, of Cornland Plantation Subdivision, located at 123 Beech Grove Drive and 120 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA (PZS-23-1380) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

**23-62** An ordinance approving the resubdivision of Lot 2 and Lot 3 of the Marion Satterlee Tract located on Miya Lane, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA (PZS-23-1378) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

**23-63** An ordinance approving the rezoning of Lot 22 of LaPlace Plantation Subdivision, located at 346 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA from the Residential District One (R-1) to the Commercial District Two (C-2) (PZR-23-1485) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 6:41 PM, Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

/s/Michael Wright  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary