

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH, 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 St. John the Baptist Parish Government Complex Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, February 11th, 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, Tonia Schnyder, Councilwoman District VI, Thomas Malik, Councilman District VII, Michael Wright, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B

ABSENT: Robert Arcuri

Councilman Wright led the Prayer. Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin led the Pledge.

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

MOTION: Councilman Malik moved and Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin seconded the motion to go recess. The motion passed with Councilman Arcuri absent.

MOTION: Councilman Malik moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to go back into regular meeting. The motion passed with Councilman Arcuri absent.

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

There was no public comment at this time.

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:

Tammy Houston - Presentation - Andrea F. Tullos - New Library Director

Good Evening, good evening. I am Andrea Tullos, I am the new Library Director for St. John the Baptist Parish, I am honored to be serving in this role having grown up here in the River Parishes, it's seems like I'm in the right place at the right time. In 1999, my family moved to North Carolina, which is right outside of Chapel Hill, and that is where I honed all of my library experience and skills and having served in the Orange County Library for 20 years, I was ready to move home. And here I am in a role that I had been working towards through my whole career. Here in St. John Libraries, I'm excited to bring a vision that embraces a unified system approach, that listens to its community. Our libraries are here to serve the residents with fresh ideas, vibrant programs, and safe gathering locations. Libraries are amazing platforms for learning, community gathering, and expanding our experiences. And our vision, is to be present and active in creating that vision for St. John."

Councilwoman Houston stated, "I want to welcome again, Ms. Tullus, to the St. John Parish Library System. I am a product of that system or I was a, I guess I'm

still a product of that system. I retired as the Assistant Director in 2017, I know the job that you inherited, I think you're going to do an excellent job from all indication from everything I've heard, from your staff you're doing a wonderful job from the board members I do know, they're very happy to have you on board, and I just want to say welcome and just know that I will always, always, hold that place, cuz I spent 29½ years there, near and dear to my heart, and so sometimes I might ride you a lil bit, but, know I'm doing it out the love of the library, okay. And I see you have the Library Vice-President, Library Board's Vice-President here, Ms. Vergie Johnson, who's also a former member of the library staff, she retired a long time ago, cuz she's so much older than I am. And now she's, she has been the President of the Library Board for many years, and now she's the Assistant President-I mean the Vice-President. So welcome, thank you!"

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you. Welcome to St. John, you said Chapel Hill, it, kind of perked my ears up, I have family that lives in Chapel Hill. But welcome you to St. John and I'm looking forward too many great things."

Jaclyn Hotard stated, "Same thing, we met very briefly on Inauguration Day. But, definitely welcome to St. John, and Ms. Vergie, she can teach you everything you need to know about the Library, along with Ms. Houston, she said she retired from the Library but I think she's still working at the Library. But thank you and welcome."

Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin stated, "Hi, I'm Mrs. Tyra Duhe-Griffin, and welcome home, and I would like to also say that I hear that you're doing wonderful things for our library system. My mother also said that you're awesome, so I just wanted to put that on the record. Welcome back!"

Andrea Tullos stated, "Thank you."

Vergie Johnson stated, "Vergie Johnson, I'm the Vice-President for St. John the Baptist Parish Public Library. It's just very happy that we have Ms. Tullos, and to have the opportunity to introduce her to the Council, because the last time we would not make that same mistake of not having to introduce someone whose leading our parish library into the right direction as well. So, she is very community oriented, and she's also governmental oriented, because she has the desire to work with the Council as well. So, we thank you all and we know that we hired the right person this time. Thank you."

Councilman Malik stated, "Why didn't you bring your husband? No well, Ms. Vergie it's delightful to see you, thank you very much for everything you've done. What I need is your email address."

Andrea Tullos stated, "It's aftullos@stjohn.lib.la.us."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ms. Tullos, welcome to St. John Parish as the new Librarian. Ms. Vergie Johnson..."

Vergie Johnson stated, "Yes!"

Councilman Madere stated, "Don't let what Ms. Houston said about you're much older than her...make sure you let her know okay. The only way you get to be old, you got to live it, have to live it! But I think she meant that in a positive way

though. Alright, thank you."

Andrea Tullos stated, "Thank you very much."

Jaclyn Hotard - Recognition - Rene Pastorek and Devin Foil, Sustainability Leadership Award

Jaclyn Hotard, Parish President, "Thank you, I see Rene and Devon are here. Recently the Planning & Zoning Department was honored with a Sustainability Leadership Award from the United States Green Building Council, Louisiana Chapter. The award recognizes both individuals and organizations that exemplify leadership in giving back to our community through commitment of time, energy and passion for the built environment. The award was presented to Rene Pastorek, Planning & Zoning Director, and Devon Foil, Coastal Zone Administrator, for their work to prioritize flood risk reduction, and coastal protection in the parish's planning framework. We would like to congratulate them on this great accomplishment. And definitely, you know Rene and Devon, your hard work doesn't go unnoticed, every time you, me meet you know I always say how it's just laid out so well, and it's just a, it's an example of your commitment to St. John. And so, I definitely appreciate it, on behalf of myself, my staff, the council and all the residents of St. John. So, thank you well deserved."

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

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to suspend the rules to move up Executive Session item - Mona Wempren vs. Atlantic Specialty et al Docket No. 71537 C/W 71604 - Subrogation Claim. The motion passed with Councilman Arcuri absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mona Wempren vs. Atlantic Specialty et al Docket No. 71537 C/W 71604 - Subrogation Claim

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

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion in the case of Mona Wempren vs. Atlantic Specialty et al Docket No. 71537 C/W 71604, that we accept the settlement in the amount of \$12,200.06. The motion passed with Councilman Arcuri absent.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - January 28th, 2020, Regular Meeting; Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin - Appointment of Darlene W. Smith to the Economic Development Committee; Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin - Appointment of Justin Lopez to the Planning and Zoning Board; Permit Approval - St. Joan of Arc Stations of the Cross Procession - Good Friday, April 10th, 2020 beginning at 5:00 PM; Permit Approval - Krewe of Tohwahpahsah - Saturday, February 22nd, 2020 beginning at Noon; Permit Approval - Frisco Fest Bike Ride and Fun Run - Saturday, March 7th, 2020 beginning at 8:00 AM; Councilwoman Schnyder - Appointment of Randall Triche to the Economic Development Committee; Parish President Hotard - Re-appointment of Helen Banquer to the River Parishes Transit Authority (RPTA); Councilman

Torres - Appointment of Demetria Carter-Robinson to the Economic Development Committee; Councilman Torres - Re-appointment of Mike Luminais to the Planning and Zoning Committee; Councilman Torres - Re-appointment of Yishnene Edwards to the Recreation Advisory Board; Councilman Torres - Re-appointment of Jacqueline Forrest to the Zoning Board of Adjustments; Councilman Torres - Appointment of Glenn Collins, Sr. to the Parish wide Water, Sewer and Drainage Board

MOTION: Councilman Malik moved and Councilman Duhe-Griffin seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - January 28th, 2020, Regular Meeting; Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin - Appointment of Darlene W. Smith to the Economic Development Committee; Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin - Appointment of Justin Lopez to the Planning and Zoning Board; Permit Approval - St. Joan of Arc Stations of the Cross Procession - Good Friday, April 10th, 2020 beginning at 5:00 PM; Permit Approval - Krewe of Tohwahpahsah - Saturday, February 22nd, 2020 beginning at Noon; Permit Approval - Frisco Fest Bike Ride and Fun Run - Saturday, March 7th, 2020 beginning at 8:00 AM; Councilwoman Schnyder - Appointment of Randall Triche to the Economic Development Committee; Parish President Hotard - Re-appointment of Helen Banquer to the River Parishes Transit Authority (RPTA); Councilman Torres - Appointment of Demetria Carter-Robinson to the Economic Development Committee; Councilman Torres - Re-appointment of Mike Luminais to the Planning and Zoning Committee; Councilman Torres - Re-appointment of Yishnene Edwards to the Recreation Advisory Board; Councilman Torres - Re-appointment of Jacqueline Forrest to the Zoning Board of Adjustments; Councilman Torres - Appointment of Glenn Collins, Sr. to the Parish wide Water, Sewer and Drainage Board. The motion passed with Councilman Arcuri absent.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION ON ORDINANCES:

20-01 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the re-subdivision of Lots JV-2, JV-3, and JV-4 of the Earp Tract into Lots JV-2A and JV-4A of the Earp Tract, located in the area generally bounded by E. 7th Street, E. 10th Street, Hwy. 44 and Airline Hwy., Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA, as shown in a survey prepared by Stephen P. Flynn, P.L.S. on November 19, 2019 (PZS-20-1231) (J. Hotard)

Rene Pastorek stated, *"This re-subdivision request is to facilitate residential development of the property and was recommended with unanimous approval by the Planning Commission at its January 27th meeting and by the Utility Board at its January 21st meeting. Due to consistency with the surrounding neighborhood pattern and the goals of the Comprehensive Plan, Administration recommends approval."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Torres seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 20-01. The motion passed with Councilman Arcuri absent.

20-02 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the re-subdivision of an undesignated portion of ground into Lots 1-A and 2-A of a portion of LaPlace Plantation, in the area generally bounded by Hemlock Street, Airline Highway, Main Street and W. 5th, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA, as shown in a survey prepared by Cody DiMarco, P.L.S. on October 12, 2018 (PZS-20-1233) (J. Hotard)

Rene Pastorek stated, *"This re-subdivision request is to facilitate commercial*

redevelopment of the property and was recommended with unanimous approval by the Planning Commission at its January 27th meeting and by the Utility Board at its January 7th meeting. Due to consistency with the surrounding neighborhood development, the zoning district requirements, and the goals of the Comprehensive Plan, Administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 20-02. The motion passed with Councilman Arcuri absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Wright stated, "At this time I'll offer a motion to accept the recommendations from the finance committee."

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to accept the recommendations from the finance committee. The motion passed with Councilman Arcuri absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lennix Madere - Meeting date change of February 25th, 2020 in observance of Mardi Gras

MOTION: Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to change the date of the upcoming Council Meeting from Tuesday, February 25th, 2020 to Wednesday, February 26th, 2020 beginning at Noon. The motion passed with 7 yeas, 1 abstaining (Houston) and 1 absent (Arcuri).

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

There were no department/engineer reports.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

There were no ordinances to introduce.

PRESIDENT REPORT:

Jaclyn Hotard stated, "Thank you. First, I'd like to offer my condolences to the Arcuri Family, one of our fellow Council members lost his father. And condolences to the Perrilloux Family, for the lost of their loved one. I'd also like to recognize Johnny Granier, Foreman in Wastewater Collections, who retired after 27 Years of Service. We will give Johnny his retirement plaque at the all staff meeting next week. A reminder that February is Black History Month and Heart Health Awareness Month. We want to encourage everyone to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of African Americans to our Parish and Country by participating in events throughout the community. St. John the Baptist Parish Libraries will also host Black History Month Celebrations, Wednesday, February 12th at Edgard Library at 5:30. The office will participate in National Wear Red to workday this Friday, and we ask the community to do the same, in addition to

getting regular heart checks. I want to thank everyone who was involved in the successful weekend, this past weekend at the Louisiana Association of Fairs & Festivals Convention in Baton Rouge. I'd also like to congratulate our very own Miss Andouille, Queen Heather Roussel, she actually placed in the top 15, I believe there were 68 contestants from all over the State of Louisiana, and she actually placed in the top 15, I want to congratulate her and also members of my staff for participating in that event and all of the volunteers. St. John Parish received honors, Ms. D'Neil Figuero, actually won the best costume on Friday night, it was just amazing a lil ferris wheel, it was the cuties thing. And the marketing award in Division II, I want to thank to, even Ms. Deshanda Firmin and Michelle Jenkins, we actually made sure that we had representation from the Parish every night of the festival, and Stanley actually went on Thursday night as well. Our next Stem St. John event is on February 29th, it will be at the Civic Center, we will send out more information on that event as we get it. Also, Rising Star has scheduled a Town Hall Meeting for Tuesday, February 18th, at 6 PM, at Rising Star Baptist Church, 620 Cardinal Street in LaPlace. The public is invited to attend to hear from parish officials. St. John's Annual Mardi Gras parades will follow their traditional routes with Tohwahpahsah rolling at 12 PM, Saturday, February 22nd in Reserve, and Krewe DuMonde rolling at 11 AM, Sunday, February 23rd, followed by the Krewe of Dage' to roll immediately following. Please be safe and enjoy Mardi Gras Season, also congratulations to the River Region Players who participated in National Signing Day recently, good luck and we will continue rooting for you. That's it, thank you."

ADJOURNMENT :

At 8:17 PM, Councilman Torres moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Arcuri absent.

/s/Lennix Madere, Jr.
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary

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