

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JULY 11th, 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 Rudolph Sorapuru Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, July 11th, 2023, at 6:00 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL: Lennix Madere, Jr., Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Kurt Becnel, Councilman District I, Tammy Houston, Councilwoman District III, Warren Torres, Councilman District II, Michael Wright, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B, Tonia Schnyder, Councilwoman District VI, Tanya Faucheux, Councilwoman District VII, Robert Arcuri, Councilman District V, Tyra Duhe-Griffin Councilwoman District IV

ABSENT: None

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

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

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

There was no public comment at this time.

Jaclyn Hotard - Presentation - Eliza Eugene - Blessed to be a Blessing Backpack Extravaganza

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - June 27th, 2023, Council Meeting

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve consent agenda items - Approval of Minutes - June 27th, 2023, Council Meeting; The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to go into executive session to discuss *Camille Oubre v. Judge Nghana Lewis and St. John the Baptist Parish Council*, Civil Action No. 22-cv-01789 (E.D. La.). The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Camille Oubre v. Judge Nghana Lewis and St. John the Baptist Parish Council, Civil Action No. 22-cv-01789 (E.D. La.)

MOTION: Councilman Arcuri moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to authorize legal counsel to settle the case *Camille Oubre v. Judge Nghana Lewis and St. John the Baptist Parish Council*, Civil Action No. 22-cv-01789 (E.D. La.) in accordance with their recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

President's Report

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

23-31 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance adjusting Parish Council salaries pursuant to Article III, Section A(2) of the St. John the Baptist Parish Home Rule Charter (W. Torres)

MOTION: Councilwoman Schnyder moved and Councilman Torres seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23-31. The motion FAILED with 4 yeas (Torres, Arcuri, Duhe-Griffin, Schnyder), 4 against (Houston, Faucheux, Becnel, Wright) and 1 abstaining (Madere).

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-137 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to advertise Request for Proposals (RFP) for Ambulance Services

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-137. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to advertise Request for Proposals (RFP) for Ambulance 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, St. John the Baptist Parish is requesting proposals for Ambulance Services throughout the Parish; and, WHEREAS, services will be funded through the Ambulance Budget. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that St. John the Baptist Parish is hereby authorized to advertise and receive proposals for Ambulance Services. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-138 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to solicit bids for the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG-CV) Council on Aging HVAC Repairs/Replacement

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-138. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to solicit bids for the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG-CV) Council on Aging HVAC Repairs/Replacement. 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, St. John the Baptist Parish has two Council on Aging facilities, one in Reserve and one in Edgard; and, WHEREAS, the LCDBG-CV grant is purposed to upgrade Parish facility HVAC systems that service low to moderate income residents; and, WHEREAS, as required through the LCDBG-CV Program, the Parish

must solicit bids for the Council on Aging HVAC Repairs and Replacement. 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 LCDBG-CV Council on Aging HVAC Repairs/Replacement. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-139 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to reject the bid received for the St. John Hurricane Ida Damage Repairs to Sewer Lift Stations in Reserve, Garyville and West Bank

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-139. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to reject the bid received for the St. John Hurricane Ida Damage Repairs to Sewer Lift Stations in Reserve, Garyville and West Bank. 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 only bid received by Gottfried Construction, LLC of Covington, LA is being rejected due to it being over the Engineer's opinion of probable construction cost; and, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that St. John the Baptist Parish is hereby authorized to reject the bid received for the St. John Hurricane Ida Damage Repairs to Sewer Lift Stations in Reserve, Garyville, and West Bank. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-140 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to re-advertise and solicit bids for the St. John Hurricane Ida Damage Repairs to Sewer Lift Stations in Reserve, Garyville and West Bank

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-140. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to re-advertise and solicit bids for the St. John Hurricane Ida Damage Repairs to Sewer Lift Stations in Reserve, Garyville and West Bank. 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, 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 estimated cost is \$330,648 and 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 re-advertise and solicit bids for the St. John Hurricane Ida Damage Repairs to Sewer Lift Stations in Reserve, Garyville, and West Bank. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-141 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute Change Order No. 11 with Command Construction Industries, LLC for the LA SAFE Airline and Main Complete Streets Project

MOTION: Councilman Arcuri moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to

approve Resolution R23-141. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute Change Order No. 11 with Command Construction Industries, LLC for the LA SAFE Airline and Main Complete Streets 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. 11 decreases the original Agreement amount by \$133,773.25 and an additional three (3) calendar days; and, WHEREAS, the decrease is due to the installation of yard drains, adjusting manholes and water valve boxes and adjusting the quantities of tapping sleeves and valves; and, WHEREAS, project is funded through \$6M the Parish received from the Louisiana Office of Community Development. 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. 11 between St. John the Baptist Parish and Command Construction Industries, LLC. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-142 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute Change Order No. 3 with Del-Con, LLC for the Hurricane Ida Disaster Related Repairs to Fire Station Facilities

MOTION: Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-142. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute Change Order No. 3 with Del-Con, LLC for the Hurricane Ida Disaster Related Repairs to Fire Station Facilities. 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 is a no cost change order that extends the Agreement for an additional twenty-eight (28) calendar days; and, WHEREAS, the additional days is due to material delays, Fire Station 94 Shop Drawing approval process, and roofing warranty certifications; and, WHEREAS, the new completion date is August 18, 2023; and, WHEREAS, this project is 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 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 Del-Con, LLC. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 against (Torres).

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-143 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to amend the Professional Services Agreement with Digital Engineering and Imaging, Inc. for Hurricane Ida Disaster Recovery Damage Assessment and A/E Services Project

MOTION: Councilman Arcuri moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-143. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to amend the Professional Services Agreement with Digital Engineering and Imaging, Inc. for Hurricane Ida Disaster Recovery Damage Assessment and A/E Services 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, Digital Engineering and Imaging, Inc. is the Engineer for services related to Hurricane Ida Disaster Assessment Services; and WHEREAS, Amendment No. 3 is for A/E Services that are required in order to complete repairs to Public Infrastructure including Public Buildings, Utilities, and Public Works Infrastructure that was damaged by Hurricane Ida; and, WHEREAS, the estimated cost of this Amendment is for a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,080,814.18 and will be funded by a 90/10 cost-share through FEMA Reimbursement and various department funds. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that St. John the Baptist Parish is hereby authorized to amend the Professional Services Agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and Digital Engineering and Imaging, Inc. The motion passed with 6 years, 1 against (Torres), 1 abstaining (Schnyder) and 1 absent (Becnel).

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-144 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute any and all documents and agreements required to submit a Grant Application to the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) for the Road Improvement Program

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Arcuri seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-144. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute any and all documents and agreements required to submit a Grant Application to the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) for the Road Improvement Program. 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, DRA provides funding assistance for projects that stimulate economic growth; and, WHEREAS, St. John the Baptist Parish is seeking funds in the amount of \$500,000 for improvements to several roads throughout the Parish; and, WHEREAS, the Road Improvement Program will enhance public safety and decrease the likelihood of pedestrian injuries and fatalities; and, WHEREAS, this project will support a long term investment in the Parish and prepare it for economic growth; and, WHEREAS, the DRA requires an authorizing Resolution as part of its grant application process. 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 execute any and all documents in connection with the application process to the Delta Regional Authority for the Road Improvement Program. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R23-145 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute any and all documents and agreements in connection with the State Hwy 61 Streetscape Improvements Project

MOTION: Councilman Arcuri moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-145. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute any and all documents and agreements in connection with the State Hwy 61 Streetscape Improvements 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 will improve access management along Hwy 61 by constructing a sidewalk with

drainage, landscaping and green infrastructure improvements; and, WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) desires to cooperate in the financing and delivery of this project through reimbursements/disbursements of eligible expenditures; and, 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 execute any and all documents in connection with the State Hwy 61 Streetscape Improvements Project. The motion passed with 7 yeas, 1 against (Torres) and 1 abstaining (Schnyder).

Jaclyn Hotard/Tara Lambeth - Resolution - R23-146 - A Resolution to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to deny application number PZR-23-1409 to rezone Lot B, Parker Subdivision, located in the area generally bounded by Highway 44, W. 2nd Street, W 3rd Street, & LeBlanc Drive, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA from the Residential District One (R-1) & Commercial District One (C-1) to the Commercial District Two (C-2)

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-146. A Resolution to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to deny application number PZR-23-1409 to rezone Lot B, Parker Subdivision, located in the area generally bounded by Highway 44, W. 2nd Street, W 3rd Street, & LeBlanc Drive, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA from the Residential District One (R-1) & Commercial District One (C-1) to the Commercial District Two (C-2). 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 Request was unanimously recommended for denial by the Planning Commission on June 12, 2023; and, WHEREAS, Section 113-79(c) of the Code of Ordinances states that if the Planning Commission recommends denial of a re-zoning and the Parish Council concurs, the matter need not to be introduced for a Public Hearing; and, WHEREAS, if this Resolution fails adoption, the matter will be introduced as an Ordinance for consideration at the next available Parish Council meeting. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that St. John the Baptist Parish hereby accepts the Planning Commission's recommendation to deny application number PZR-23-1409 to rezone Lot B, Parker Subdivision from the Residential District One [R-1] & Commercial District One [C-1] to the Commercial District Two [C-2]. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard/Tara Lambeth - Resolution - R23-147 - A Resolution to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to deny application number PZR-23-1410 to rezone Lot C, Parker Subdivision, located in the area generally bounded by Highway 44, W. 2nd Street, W. 3rd Street, & LeBlanc Drive, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA from Commercial District One (C-1) to the Commercial District Two (C-2)

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-147. A Resolution to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to deny application number PZR-23-1410 to rezone Lot C, Parker Subdivision, located in the area generally bounded by Highway 44, W. 2nd Street, W. 3rd Street, & LeBlanc Drive, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA from Commercial District One (C-1) to the Commercial District Two (C-2). 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 Request was unanimously recommended for denial by the Planning Commission on June 12, 2023; and, WHEREAS, Section 113-79(c) of the Code of Ordinances states that if the Planning Commission recommends denial of a rezoning and the Parish Council concurs, the matter need not to be introduced for a Public Hearing; and, WHEREAS, if this Resolution fails adoption, the matter will be introduced as an Ordinance for consideration at the next available Parish Council meeting. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that St. John the Baptist Parish hereby accepts the Planning Commission's recommendation to deny application number PZR-23-1410 to rezone Lot C, Parker Subdivision from the Commercial District One [C-1] to the Commercial District Two [C-2]. The motion passed unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

23-32 An ordinance amending Chapter 42 - Utilities, Article III - Water Systems, to add Sec. 42-54 - Fiber optic cable permitting process (See attached exhibit) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

23-33 An ordinance that Ordinance 23-08 hereby be amended to remove Precinct 7-5 (M. Wright)

23-34 A millage ordinance - an ordinance providing for the levy and collection of ad valorem taxes in the Parish of St. John the Baptist, to be spread upon the 2023 Assessment Roll (J. Hotard)

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS:

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:18 PM, Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Michael Wright
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary