

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26<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, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 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

Council Secretary, Jackie Landeche led the Prayer and Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin led the Pledge.

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

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

Joy Banner commented on Resolution R23-196.

**BOARD OF REVIEW**

Jackie Landeche stated, *"For a period of Fifteen (15) days, beginning August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and ending August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, this board of review has been opened to receive any written or oral complaints from taxpayers who wish to protest their assessment as determined by the assessor. Complaining taxpayers must comply with Act 705 of 1976 in order for the board of review to consider any protest. The board of review is now opened to consider any protest."*

Please be advised that on Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, acting as Board of Review for St. John the Baptist Parish, opened the Public Hearing to receive any written or oral complaints from taxpayers who wished to protest their assessments as determined by the Assessor.

There being no complaints from the public, the Public Hearing was closed.

**Jaclyn Hotard - Proclamation - October 1 - October 7, 2023 as National 4-H Week**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to remove the item Permit Approval - Woman like Me and Girl like Me 5K Turkey Run/Trot/Walk - Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 9:00 AM, beginning at the Thomas

F. Daley Memorial Park, Hwy. 51 from the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

**ITEMS:** Approval of Minutes - September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Council Meeting; Permit Approval - West St. John High School Annual Homecoming Parade - Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, along Hwy. 18 & then Hwy. 640; Councilwoman Schnyder - Appointment of Kevin Patel to the Economic Development Committee

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Schnyder moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to approve the amended consent agenda items - Approval of Minutes - September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Council Meeting; Permit Approval - West St. John High School Annual Homecoming Parade - Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, along Hwy. 18 & then Hwy. 640; Councilwoman Schnyder - Appointment of Kevin Patel to the Economic Development Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS:**

**President's Report**

**Jaclyn Hotard - Monthly Financial Report (August 2023)**

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

**23-42** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending Ordinance 23-38 to remove language referencing Precincts 3-5 and 3-6 (M. Wright)

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Arcuri seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23-42. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 against (Torres).

**23-43** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval to further extend the valid period of time of Conditional Subdivision approval for an additional twelve (12) months for River Oaks Subdivision, Phase V, Lots 205-239, 245-252, 264-282, and Parcels H-11, H-13, C, and D, located south of the proposed Woodland Drive right-of-way, West of the Vicknair Canal, East of St. Andrews Boulevard, and North of River Oaks Subdivision, Phases II and III; situated in Sections 66 and 67, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana; which were granted Preliminary/Conditional approval on August 9, 2005 (Ordinance No. 05-46) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

**MOTION:** Councilman Arcuri moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 23-43. The motion passed unanimously.

**23-44** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval to further extend the valid period of time of Conditional Subdivision approval for an additional twelve (12) months for Belle Terre Commercial Subdivision, Phase I, Parcel B, Lots 4-22; Parcel C, Lots 2,3 & 6-9; and Parcel DS-4; Phase 2, Parcel B, Lots 23-49; and Parcel C, Lots 10-44; and Phase 3, Parcel D, Lots 1-39; Parcel E, Lots 1-42; Parcel DS-2; and Parcel DS-3; all situated in Sections 69 and 70, T-11-S, R-7-E, Southeast District of Louisiana, East of the Mississippi River, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana; which were granted Conditional approval on June 12, 2007 (Ordinance No. 07-33) and October 9, 2007 (Ordinance No. 07-65) (J. Hotard & T. Lambeth)

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Arcuri seconded the motion to

approve Ordinance 23-44. The motion passed unanimously.

**Peter Montz/Jaclyn Hotard - Resolution - R23-192 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to award the bid for the REGALA Park Field No. 1 and Park Field No. 3 Synthetic Turf Project to GeoSurfaces, Inc.**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-192. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to award the bid for the REGALA Park Field No. 1 and Park Field No. 3 Synthetic Turf Project to GeoSurfaces, 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, GeoSurfaces, Inc. of St. Gabriel, LA submitted the lowest responsive and responsible bid in the amount of \$646,000; and, WHEREAS, services will include synthetic turf installation and new drainage on the Little League Baseball Field (Field No. 1 and Field No. 3); and, WHEREAS, the cost of the project will be funded through the Recreation Department 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 the REGALA Park Field No. 1 and Park Field No. 3 Synthetic Turf Project to GeoSurfaces, Inc. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 abstaining (Torres).

**Peter Montz/Jaclyn Hotard - Resolution - R23-193 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute Change Order No. 1 with GeoSurfaces, Inc. for the REGALA Park Field No. 1 and Park Field No. 3 Synthetic Turf Project**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Arcuri seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-193. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute Change Order No. 1 with GeoSurfaces, Inc. for the REGALA Park Field No. 1 and Park Field No. 3 Synthetic Turf 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. 1 decreases the original Agreement amount by \$85,600; and, WHEREAS, decrease is due to removing a stabilized sub-base which is not required for turf installation and standard infill; and, WHEREAS, the project is funded through the Recreation Department Budget. 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 Council to execute Change Order No. 1 between St. John the Baptist Parish and GeoSurfaces, Inc. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 abstaining (Torres).

Councilwoman Faucheux left the meeting early.

**Peter Montz/Jaclyn Hotard - Resolution - R23-194 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute Change Order No. 2 with All Star Electric, Inc. for the Lions Water Treatment Plant Electrical Control Building Project**

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

approve Resolution R23-194. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute Change Order No. 2 with All Star Electric, Inc. for the Lions Water Treatment Plant Electrical Control Building 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. 2 increases the original Agreement by \$14,173; and, WHEREAS, this increase provides a credit for motor control center equipment additions and deletions to accommodate future backwash pump and sludge pump; and WHEREAS, increase will include betterments to the generator Automatic Transfer Switch for equipment protection and allow seamless transfer from emergency power back to normal power; and, WHEREAS, increase will also include coated copper bus to the electrical panelboards in lieu of aluminum bus; and, WHEREAS, Change Order No. 2 is funded through St. John the Baptist Parish Bond Funds and the LDH Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund. 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 Council to execute Change Order No. 2 between St. John the Baptist Parish and All Star Electric, Inc. The motion passed with Councilwoman Faucheux absent.

**Peter Montz/Jaclyn Hotard - Resolution - R23-195 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute Change Order No. 1 with Pittsburg Tank & Tower, Co., Inc. for the Elevated Water Tower and Storage Tank Rehabilitation Project**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Torres the motion to approve Resolution R23-195. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute Change Order No. 1 with Pittsburg Tank & Tower, Co., Inc. for the Elevated Water Tower and Storage Tank Rehabilitation 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. 1 increases the original Agreement amount by \$4,600; and, WHEREAS, the increase is due to remove and replace the damaged water tank vent assembly for the 250,000 gallon ground storage tank at the Lyons Water Plant; and, WHEREAS, the project is funded through the Utilities Budget. 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 Council to execute Change Order No. 1 between St. John the Baptist Parish and Pittsburg Tank & Tower, Co. Inc. The motion passed with Councilwoman Faucheux absent.

**Peter Montz/Jaclyn Hotard - Resolution - R23-196 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to sign any and all documents related to the St. John Sidewalk Main Street to Emily C. Watkins Project**

**MOTION:** Councilman Arcuri moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-196. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to sign any and all documents related to the St. John Sidewalk 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, the Louisiana Department of Transportation (DOTD) approved this project to be included in the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP); and, WHEREAS, the estimated total construction cost is \$698,805 and will be funded by 90% of Federal Grant Funds with a 10% match. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by 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 any and all documents for the St. John Sidewalks (Main Street to Emily C. Watkins) Project. The motion passed with 7 yeas, 1 abstaining (Schnyder) and 1 absent (Faucheux).

**Jaclyn Hotard - Resolution - R23-197 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to ENTER INTO AN Agreement with the Board of Trustees of the Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana to secure coverage for eligible officers and employees of St. John the Baptist Parish**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to approve Resolution R23-197. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to ENTER INTO AN Agreement with the Board of Trustees of the Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana to secure coverage for eligible officers and employees of St. John the Baptist Parish. 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 will extend the provisions of Chapter 5 of Title 11 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to provide retirement benefits to all eligible officers and employees of St. John the Baptist Parish Public Defenders Office; and, WHEREAS, this Agreement includes all services performed by persons as permanent employees of St. John Parish Public Defenders Office who work at least twenty-eight (28) hours a week and whose compensation is paid wholly or partly through the Parish; and, WHEREAS, all costs, expenses and funding of the retirement benefits of the eligible officers and employees shall be the sole obligation of the St. John Parish Public Defenders Office and that there are no current or future financial obligations or responsibilities for St. John Parish or the St. John Parish Council; and, WHEREAS, the rate for employee contributions will be 3% and the Employer rate will be 7.5% payable to the Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana in addition to Social Security and Medicare. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that St. John the Baptist Parish is hereby authorized to enter into an Agreement with the Board of Trustees of the Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana. The motion passed with Councilwoman Faucheux absent.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**23-45** 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)

**23-46** 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)

- 23-47** 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)
- 23-48** 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)
- 23-49** 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)
- 23-50** 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)
- 23-51** 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)
- 23-52** 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)

**CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:00 PM, Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Faucheux absent.

/s/Michael Wright  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary