

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, MAY 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2020  
VIDEO/TELECONFERENCE  
CHAIRMAN LENNIX MADERE  
VICE-CHAIR KURT BECNEL

CERTIFICATE

The St. John the Baptist Parish Council, through its Chairman, Lennix Madere, Jr., hereby certifies as follows: In accordance with Executive Proclamations JBE 2020-30 issued by Governor John Bel Edwards on March 16, 2020, and concurrence by the Attorney General on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020, this Notice shall serve as certification by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council of its inability to operate in accordance with the Louisiana Open Meetings Law due to a lack of quorum as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Pursuant to Section 4 of JBE 2020-30 the St. John the Baptist Parish Council will provide for attendance at its essential government meeting on Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 via video conference in order to obtain a quorum of its members. Therefore, in accordance with JBE 2020-30, the St. John the Baptist Parish Council meeting on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 2:00 PM will be held via video conference and in a manner that will allow for observation and input by members of the public, as set forth in the notice posted on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. All other Open Meetings Law requirements have been met.

The St. John the Baptist Parish Council members will meet via Zoom video/teleconference at the posted date and time.

Via Telephone access: Call 985-652-1702

Via Web access: [www.sjbparish.com](http://www.sjbparish.com) {click on (Government) Menu button, then select (Parish Council)}

Also, you can watch as normal on our Government Channels live with scheduled replays.

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: 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, Councilwoman District VI, Thomas Malik, Councilman District VII, Michael Wright, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B

ABSENT: Lennix Madere, Tonia Schnyder

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

Legal Counsel Keith Green, Jr., Christopher Cortez and Kennilyn Schmill were present via video conference.

PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY (90 seconds per citizen)

Krystal Placide-Taylor, *"The canal behind River Pointe Road in Cole's Landing is in need of immediate attention. It needs to be dredged! It is overfilled with high grass and growing trees, and tree debris which is slowing the outward flow*

*of the water which had been causing our homes to almost flood recently I'm call ion my Parish Council to see this matter is handled so our community does not flood as we almost did last week from hard rain. Thanks."*

**INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:**

**Jaclyn Hotard - Proclamation - June as Safety Month**

Jaclyn Hotard, Parish President, read the proclamation for June as Safety Month.

**Jaclyn Hotard - Proclamation - June 10-16 as Men's Health Week**

The above item will be carried over to the next agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**ITEMS:** Approval of Minutes - May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Regular Meeting; Jaclyn Hotard - Appointment of Woody Norsworthy to the Historic District Commission; Jaclyn Hotard - Re-Appointment of Jonathan Perret to the Historic District Commission

**MOTION:** Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Regular Meeting; Jaclyn Hotard - Appointment of Woody Norsworthy to the Historic District Commission; Jaclyn Hotard - Re-Appointment of Jonathan Perret to the Historic District Commission. The motion passed with Councilwoman Schnyder and Councilman Madere absent.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION ON ORDINANCES:**

**20-11** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the re-subdivision of the Rico Lumar Lot into Lots 1-RM and 2-RM, located in the area generally bounded by E. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, E. 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Highway 44, as shown in a survey prepared by Stephen P. Flynn, P.L.S. on January 30, 2020. (PZS-20-1238) (J. Hotard)

Rene Pastorek stated, *"This re-subdivision request to facilitate the transfer of land was recommended with unanimous approval by the Planning Commission at its March 16, 2020 meeting and by the Utility Board at its May 11, 2020 meeting. Due to consistency with the surrounding neighborhood development pattern, the Future Land Use Map, and the goals of the Comprehensive Plan, Administration recommends approval."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Torres seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 20-11. The motion passed with Councilwoman Schnyder and Councilman Madere absent.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance Committee:**

Councilman Wright stated, *"Thank you Mr. Chairman, at this time, I'll offer a motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The motion passed with

Councilwoman Schnyder and Councilman Madere absent.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Councilman Wright stated, *"Thank you Mr. Chairman, at this time I'll offer a motion to suspend the rules to add an item to the agenda under new business. Resolution R20-16 - A resolution in opposition to Louisiana House Bill 2 (HB2), as amended by the House Committee on Appropriations to remove funds allocated to the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain project and other coastal efforts statewide."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to suspend the rules to add Resolution R20-16 to the agenda under new business. A resolution in opposition to Louisiana House Bill 2 (HB2), as amended by the House Committee on Appropriations to remove funds allocated to the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain project and other coastal efforts statewide. The motion passed with Councilwoman Schnyder and Councilman Madere absent.

**Jaclyn Hotard - Resolution - R20-16 - A Resolution in the opposition to Louisiana House Bill (HB2), as amended by the House Committee on Appropriations to remove funds allocated to the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain project and other coastal efforts statewide**

Jaclyn Hotard stated, *"Thank you very much for suspending the rules to add this Resolution on there, I sent a memo as well to the Council just to give an update. There was an amendment made to House Bill 2 (HB2), which would remove a hundred seventeen (\$117.00) from the surplus funds and place it into a capital outlay budget for our critical infrastructure projects, which \$60 million of that is/will be utilized for Westshore Lake Pontchartrain. In addition to this resolution, I had a letter drafted on Friday, and signed by myself, and President Pete Dufresne, Matt Jewel also, expressing our concern and opposition to the amendments made to House Bill 2 (HB2), and I've been in contact with the Executive Director of CPRA, our entire delegation in Baton Rouge. So that we can have all hands-on deck in opposing this amendment. And so, the purpose of this resolution is also to show unified front from Administration and Council of our opposition to the amendment in Louisiana House Bill 2, that would adversely impact these budgets."*

Councilman Becnel stated, *"Okay Ms. Hotard, Ms. Hotard."*

Jaclyn Hotard stated, *"Yes."*

Councilman Becnel stated, *"I just want for clarification purpose, you did say \$117,000? It sounds like I heard \$117."*

Jaclyn Hotard stated, *"I'm sorry, yes a \$117 million. Yes."*

Councilman Becnel stated, *"Okay, alright then. Thank you!"*

Jaclyn Hotard stated, *"Thank you for that. And my recommendation would be that we approve this Resolution."*

Councilman Becnel stated, "Okay."

**MOTION:** Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Arcuri seconded the motion to approve Resolution R20-16. A resolution in opposition to Louisiana House Bill 2 (HB2), as amended by the House Committee on Appropriations to remove funds allocated to the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain project and other coastal efforts statewide. The motion passed with Councilwoman Schnyder and Councilman Madere absent.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

**Tyra Duhe-Griffin - Update on the cleaning of canals**

Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin stated, "Thank you. I've been having, Hurricane Season officially starts June 1<sup>st</sup>, and I have received a lot of calls from residents in District IV. And they are concerned about the maintenance, the liter and the water flow of the canals. I have received many calls, and my residents are worried about the flooding, and water going into their homes, and no place for the water to go. To ensure all canals are equally maintained, does the Public Works department have a schedule or a rotation, in place to address all canals have equal maintenance, and that was you know one of my questions. A lot of canals are being neglected, and I understand that we are in a middle of a pandemic and that we are not working to you know the full capacity, however, we do have a lot of residents (my residents), that reached out to me. And I do want to thank Mr. Verdell for answering some of my calls and concerns this week. However, they still have a lot of canals that need a lot of work."

Councilwoman Houston stated, "The concerns and the question are not exclusive to District IV, District III residents have the same concerns, I had some residents who had excessive flooding in their house, in their homes the other day. So, the concerns are real and the concerns are universal, they're just not exclusive to one department, I'm sure! The questions that Ms. Duhe-Griffin presented were valid questions, is there a schedule or how are these complaints handled? How are the cleaning of the canals handled, the ditches, the drains, etc. Is there a schedule, should we when we get these calls, should we assure our residents that they're going to be addressed, they're going to be taken care of? I had someone from another District who, he emailed me asking for some guidance and some, some directions on if they're going to start cleaning the ditches, are they're going to start in areas that are suffering with the drainage and then carry it out throughout the parish? The one comment we did have it came from a constituent in District III, whose concerned about the canal over that's responsible for Cole's Landing. So, it's not exclusive for one (1) or two (2) districts, we have a lot of concerns with hurricane season coming up. And as Ms. Griffin said, when you call the Public Works department, Mr. Kindrick is very, very accommodating. And I've also had some conversations with the Director, Mr. Fauchaux, they're accommodating but I just would like some answers as to... when they're going to start this schedule? I've had some discussions with the Parish President, and you know she's assured me they're working on it, but I just want to assure the residents that we are working on this, that their concerns are not falling on deaf ears, is my, that's what I want the residents to understand."

Councilman Becnel stated, "I do understand what both of you all are saying, because it's ironic I could read a text, it came to me like 1:30, when I was over here because I usually call Mr. Verdell and he'll address it. But I see what

you're saying, we need to be more transparent with our constituents, and give them like a kind of start date or something to make 'em you know, I know we're paying attention to it, but we need to plan of action and I would ask the administration is someone here to address that, or like to pass some comments, anyone?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "Yes. I provided a report to Administration and Council last week, regarding the forty-two (42) canals, my office was asked to obtain or renew permits for. Back in, this started actually back in 2017, the Parish had numerous canals all with varied permits all with the Army Corp of Engineers, these would be identified as your main outfall canals that carry the water away from your subdivisions into the swamp and outlying areas. As you all stated, many of them had been in a state of several or clogged over the years from hurricanes, storm debris, as well as siltation. What we did, is we did obtain two (2) permits, from the Army Corp of Engineers and Department of Natural Resources. One (1), for clearing and snagging of thirty-six (36) canals, and that's removal of debris, blockages, vegetation, down trees, any vegetative growth from the bottom and so forth that would be blocking the canals. The second permit was actually for dredging or removing of settlement in reshaping the bottoms of those canals; those, there was six (6) listed there. We have those two (2) permits, they were obtained on June 13th (12<sup>th</sup>&13<sup>th</sup> respectively) and they have a 5-year run period, both expiring in 2023. As they stand right now, we were requested by the previous administration to go and try to obtain an amendment to these current permits to allow us to bank all of the spoils. Right now, the current permits on many of the canals, not all, but many of the canals, requires the parish to load it into trucks and haul it off. Well, when we went out and obtained cost estimates for doing this work it was quite costly. In fact, ten (10) of the canals we did previous estimates on and the estimated cost was around \$6 million. So, they asked us to go out and try and get an amendment to the existing permit to allow us to chip or chip the vegetative mulch or leave it in place. We have not gotten an answer from the Army Corp, nor the Department of Natural Resources on that amendment as of yet. So, moving forward, we are recommending that the...we'll be allowed to get with the administration and set a priority of the canals, based on those with the most critical flow conditions and with that, what I mean by that statement...is, that, we try and identify those canals in the areas that are having the largest amount of problems. For instance, there's canals out there where you've got subdivisions that are getting heavy rains and while they make get and see some backup, it is not as severe as other subdivisions which where that canal may be more restricted and so when you get even on a lighter rain day, you're seeing backup into the subdivisions and so forth. So, were asking that we try and prioritize those canals by need as those that are more critical from a flow condition standpoint, as well as whatever allow what your budget will allow you to do. We need to set a budget to complete this work, and then immediately start on those canals which we have permits on and capability of. As it stands right now, eight (8) of the canals the eight (8) of the forty-two (42) total, that we have currently allow us to bank those spoils in place. And so, that as I said, can greatly reduce your cost. Now, I've been speaking with Ms. Hotard, via email, and she has requested that I get cost estimates which we are working on right now on those eight (8) canals to you all as soon as possible so that can start prioritizing that work in getting what we can get done now."

Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin stated, "Mr. Savoie."

Joseph Savoie stated, "Yes ma'am."

Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin asked, "Could you... I know we talked earlier, could you give me an update of what you can do now for the Haydel Canal in LaPlace Park, because before this meeting started even with this light rain, I have pictures of a backyard that's flooded."

Joseph Savoie stated, "The Haydel Canal the Haydel Canal, is one of the permitted on the list that allows for banking of the spoils in place, and it is one of the canals that Ms. Hotard has asked me to get her a cost estimate as quickly as possible, which my office is currently working on. Once that's done, if budgeting is available, and I would recommend that we move forward as quickly as possible based on that priority list that would be set by myself and/or Public Works, however the administration deems to, is the most appropriate action."

Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin asked, "Thank you."

Councilwoman Houston stated, "Your prioritized list, did we receive a copy of that list Mr. Savoie?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "I have not prioritized a list, I'm recommending that a list be prioritized. I have a list of all of the canals, which I attached with my report, but I'm fairly certain, any priority that's made would have to be made available to you as the Council."

Councilwoman Houston asked, "But you have not comprised that list as of yet?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "No ma'am."

Councilwoman Houston stated, "Thank you."

Councilman Arcuri stated, "Joseph, could you explain to the Council about the 2-year time period we have to start this work, and what would happen if we do not start this work, and what is the date on this start?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "Correct! These permits all come with a basically 2-year start date from issuance. What that mean is you have to start the work on any of them within a 2-year period to keep your maintained active status of your permit. What happens if you miss that particular date does not mean you lose you permit, your permit simply goes into an inactive status, which you'll have to notify the Corps and request for an extension of that date. That date is approaching as it as I said, we obtained them on June 12<sup>th</sup>, so we're approaching June 12<sup>th</sup> now. My office is already in the process of drafting a letter to the Army Corp of Engineers and Department of Natural Resources to extend the start date. The reason we're asking for that extension is of course at this point and time, budgetary concerns and we need to set a priority, as to how we're going to complete the task because the cost as I said was a little bit absorbent then the previous administration budgets could absorb."

Councilman Arcuri asked, "In your experience is that request usually granted in a timely manner?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "Yes sir yes sir. It's not a, that is not a lengthy permit process, because you already have gone through basically all of the permit requirements, it took us 2-years to obtain these permits...to give you an example. So, we've already jumped through all the hoops, all of the various state

and federal agencies have reviewed it, and, and they have set specific parameters on each one of these canals. So, we're simply requesting an extension of the start, this is not an uncommon request."

Councilman Arcuri stated, "And I believe we do have some canals that's not in the wetlands that like you said, that we could probably start working on and truck the material out and get started, and that would probably help us help us out with the permit if we got started in a timely manner, right?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "Yes, any start, any start you can make on any of these permits activates, that is the one I will say advantage that having only two (2) permits with all of the canals combined, if you'd to start on any one of those canals within the two (2) permits, it constitutes a start for the permit as a whole."

Councilman Arcuri stated, "Thank you."

Jaclyn Hotard stated, "Thank you, and I'll yield the floor to Ms. Houston. If she has more questions just so if she does, I can possibly add to the discussion. So, I'll be more than happy to yield my time."

Councilwoman Houston stated, "Thank you Parish President. I just wanted to ask Mr. Savoie... if we began work, would you give us a recommendation of where we should begin the work immediately before you ask for the extension?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "Ms. Hotard had brought that up earlier and I will be glad to give a recommendation, but before I can a recommendation of where you should start, I would like the opportunity to get with the Public Works Director, and try to identify those areas of most critical need, is that of course would affect my recommendation with regarding a priority. Secondly, any canal that we currently have the permit to bank the spoils, where if the budget allows, then I would recommend we can start on that immediately, regardless of where it is."

Councilwoman Houston stated, "Thank you. You said Ms. Hotard asked the same questions, just goes to show - great minds do think alike."

Councilman Torres stated, "Well in the past we had previous Council and all had discussions about a drainage department, since I got in office, just give you an example on Plantation Oaks, they got it's probably a 50-year old tree broke off and is in the canal, Mr. Faucheux jumped on it then the next day we got two (2) more down the same canal before you get to the railroad track. We been neglected so long the parish wide, I can remember back we used to dredge out Hope Canal and Reserve Canal, and then you had the three (3) canals in LaPlace that was taken care of by three (3) individuals that's probably they're all retired by now, we don't do any of that. Mr. Savoie, how long it's been since we can now put the spoil on the banks. That just, that ain't been that long, before we had to haul all that it out right?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "That's correct, when we obtained these permits when we obtained these permits, we were allowed those stipulations for the Hope Canal, as well as seven (7) others that were on the list. Many of the canals we went back and forth with several of the agencies, they're still requiring that we load it at identified sites and haul it to parish approved disposal sites for incineration or stock piling."

Councilman Torres stated, "So with that said, if we would just pump out the canals from the river to the airline, all of that you got to go through the permits and all to get that to, to get them approved for you to just dump that in the parish, or that's, that's...do we have enough space available to dump it in the parish or it would have to be hauled out? So, once you haul it you got to haul it long distance, I mean the cost just escalates you know!"

Joseph Savoie stated, "Correct, it does. Now there are several there are, we've identified in the permits loading sites, temporary loading sites at each one of the canals, so that we could more efficiently stockpile that material if it should take a particular amount of time, and then we would haul it to where ever the various sites closest that the parish could make it a viable disposal site that is not in a wetland. As it stands, I think the current plan was to try and get all of this to the parish and send an incinerator where it can be burned over time. The, but I said, the temporary disposal sites are at each one of the canals, there's a common point pretty much at each canal where a loading site has been identified and so the long term plan would be of course if we stuck with the hauling, would be to stockpile it there until the parish had the proper time and trucking to move it to the incineration site trying to reduce that mobilization cost."

Councilman Torres stated, "Just like your retention pond back of Reserve, I don't know what the acreage is on it, I think when it was build it was 7 foot, now it's just three, three and a half, four foot of sludge in it and they had a dredging company...I think down a, Airport Road that wanted to do that. But again, I don't know the acreage of that to get rid of that, I don't think they going to just let you dump that in the wetlands or whatever, that would be a whole another permit or that's kind a looked at already?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "We are currently in the process of obtaining a permit to clean that pond, and the plan in the application that we have submitted, would be; allow us to fluidize that material and disperse it over the surrounding wetlands as a mitigation to return that settlement as a vegetative growth measure for the surrounding wetlands. It has not been permitted yet, but we are in the final stages."

Councilman Torres stated, "And the only other thing I could ask the public, we were in Reserve the other day and Mr. Verdell was running around like a chicken with his neck cut off, trying to satisfy me, we looked at one or two canals, they had 6 or 8 fence board of debris in front of the culverts, between the cross ties, tires, bicycles, whatever...leaves, if the public can help us out, it might be that whatever you done might keep the water out your house until we get control over this. I think we are so far behind it's been neglected for so long a we need a workshop or something or set priorities and they get the ball rolling, and that's about all I got."

Councilwoman Houston stated, "One more thing. I just wanted to piggy-back on what Mr. Torres said, and appeal to the residents, and ask you to please don't, I mean if you pay water bill you have garbage. So, please use your garbage cans, don't use the ditches as a dumping ground and then you wonder why the drainage is backed up. So, I just wanted to piggy-back on that and put the responsibility somewhat on the residents to help us out, so they can have drainage and they can have water that will recede when it rains, and our drains won't be clogged. So, I thank you for that Mr. Torres."



Councilman Arcuri stated, "One final thing, an important part of this whole deal is that we need to get the water through both railroad tracks. And we needed to have we need to get some contact numbers with our railroads. I was out there with Mr. Torres the other day looking in Reserve, where they inadvertently found about a 4-foot culvert that was stopped up solid that was going under the CN track, and that's the kind of thing that's happening all over the parish. And you know, our water has to flow from the levee all the way to the swamps, and it has to go through two (2) railroad tracks to get there, and many, many of the culverts, are blocked up, halfway filled up with settlement or rocks-some of the are completely covered up with rocks. So that is one of the important things that we need to work on, along with dredging canals and ditches. That's all I have to say, thank you!"

Jaclyn Hotard stated, "Thank you so much. No, it's very good discussion and Mr. Savoie's right, we had some discussions even prior to this being on the agenda, because right, we all get the phone calls especially as we approach hurricane season, we are I guess a little bit behind in a sense because of Corona virus. However, when Joseph sent me the list, I asked him to let me know which of the forty-two (42) permits, we did have permits for where we could bank the spoils, because we know on those six (6), it will cost us a lot less to go ahead and get started on those, and another point that Mr. Savoie brought up, it a very good point because we only have two (2) permits, as long as we take the first dig on one of the canals in both of those permits, then we have, we're deemed that we've begun the work. The second item that I ask Mr. Savoie also to do, is give me a cost estimate on those six (6), and I've been working with our Chief Financial Officer for identifying some funding, we've identified about \$1.5 million, from one of the previous bond issues for drainage and we're continuing to look for additional funds so that we can begin this work sooner than later, and then I guess I have a question for Mr. Savoie; how long or do you think we can make some kind of an expedited request on the canals that we don't have the ability to bank the spoils via amendment? How long do you think it will take for them to come back with something or can we send an expedited request to them?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "I think we can...it never hurts to send an expedited request. Because we have been going back and forth with DNR and Corps on a monthly basis, we've made modifications to drawings again, answered questions, right now, in fact they sent us probably...I got a volley of questions last week that we are make some adjustments and trying to get them some answers as well as making adjustments to the drawings, that we could get this through. A lot of it has to do I hate to say it, but a lot of it has to do with exactly how you word things on a particular drawing or permit, because one (1) agency has had some difficultly with terminology. So, we're trying to get that right and satisfy you know, you're trying to satisfy about five (5) different agencies, all have their own different quirks or reasons that they want or don't want something on a particular permit, so we're trying to navigate that right now, but a request for expedition of something never hurts. And it may go far as with the previous permits, it took us going with a member of administration to New Orleans or to Baton Rouge to sit and face-to-face with DNR and say look-this is where we are and we're trying to expedite this. So, and answer to your question yes! Any letter of expedition or request for expedition is...always helps!"

Jaclyn Hotard stated, "Thank you, and once we-just for the Council also, once I have the cost estimate from Joseph on the six (6) that we know we can bank the spoils, he would make a recommendation also on whether or not we should put all

six (6) of them in a bid package and will submit that to the Council. I suspect we will have something to submit to the Council for approval probably within the next 30-days, just once we get the estimate and we've identified how much funding we have of those six (6) that we can bank the spoils and then he and I will talk a little bit more about the other ones if we identify more funding. And, I asked to have a priority list on these other thirty-six (36), that will take some communication with Public Works to identify which are the most impacted, which are the most...which are having the most impact I guess on some of the water issues that we're seeing right now. And so, I look forward to bringing something before the Council to get this work going. As it relates to what Mr. Bosco mentioned about the Drainage department, it was actually my Legislation...I believe it was in 2017, that created a drainage/maintenance unit within our drainage department. I still feel very strongly about that, we have begun to make some really good assessments of how everything operates in our Public Works department, and then we got hit with Corona Virus and obviously social distancing and things like that, kind of prohibited us from doing a little bit more than what we would have liked to. But my vision is to have a crew or crews if you will, multiple crews, dedicated solely to just drainage/maintenance because some things won't get resolved with these big canals, we know we have smaller ditches and things like that inside the neighborhoods that we need to address as well. So, our attack needs to be two-fold, the big canals and then some of the smaller ditches in the subdivision. Another thing that will be helpful to...and we touched on this and Ms. Houston even touched on that about residents not putting things into the ditches, not only you know is it problematic when we have tires in there, but what happens is you get a tire and then a garbage bag, you know attaches to the tire, and then all of that stuff gets into a pump station or it just causes a blockage, so please help us with that. And then as it relates to our pumps, just kind a educating the public...I know in some of the old systems or how it was in the past, we had to manually turn pumps on, we no longer have to turn pumps on the pumps come on automatically when the water levels get to a certain height, it kind of works like the back of the toilet if you will, whenever the water gets to a certain height there's a lever that triggers the pumps to come on, if we're having to manually turn on a pump that's when there's a problem, and so, that's how everything works. But again, just to kind of circle back and wrap all of this up, I've asked Mr. Savoie as the Project Engineer on this canal project, to get me a cost estimate on those six (6) canals that we can bank the spoils because we know those'll be the least expensive as from the standpoint of having to get the debris out, and then let's go ahead prioritize the thirty-six (36), let's do an expedited request, a request for those amendments for the permits to be expedited, even if it's expediting them to tell us 'No' and then we need to go to Plan B, and then based on what happens of that request, if they amend it then we can move forward with another budget package there, we'll look in our budget and see what we have left...if they will not amend it then I'll ask Mr. Savoie to give us recommendations in those thirty-six (36) based on how many of them have you know the quickest place to bank, you know that debris for it to be chipped and brought to the incinerator and all of that. So, it's kind of two (2) plans we have going on, but like I said...I believe we will be able to submit something to the Council within the next 30-days. Of the thirty-six (36), everyone has the report that Mr. Savoie went over, I would review some of those on your own you probably know your districts better than anyone and look at some of those so when we begin prioritizing, we will prioritize in more than one way, need of the canal and cost of the canal, so let's all look together and see how we can get some good feedback also to Mr. Savoie."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Okay, well moving right along. First of all, Ms. Griffin I want to thank you putting this on the agenda, because what it did it allowed all of us all the Council members to comment and I think this giving the public right now, of what we accomplished today is they know we have a game plan and they know we're concerned, and this was very informative and I want to thank you, and of course Madam President, I think was a good one, right!"

**Robert Figuero - Monthly Financial Report (April 2020)**

Jaclyn Hotard stated, "It's just acknowledging that we've submitted the monthly financial report. I believe going forward will just put this on correspondence since it's just a matter of us, I'm showing we submitted the correspondence to the Council. Thank you."

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**20-12** An ordinance approving the re-subdivision of a portion of Parcel B of the Bienvenu Estates Subdivision into Parcel B-1 and Parcel B-2 of the Bienvenu Estates Subdivision, located in the area generally bounded by E. 22nd Street, Homewood Place, West Airline Highway, and Highway 44, as shown in a survey prepared by Stephen P. Flynn, P.L.S. on March 16, 2020. (PZS-20-1241) (J. Hotard)

**PRESIDENT REPORT:**

The president report can be viewed in its entirety at [www.sjbparish.com](http://www.sjbparish.com).

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 3:53 PM, Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Schnyder and Councilman Madere absent.

/s/Kurt P. Becnel  
COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary

The meeting can be viewed in its entirety at [www.sjbparish.com](http://www.sjbparish.com).

**Public Comment Form:** <http://st-john-parish.com/council-meeting/>