

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13th, 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, October 13th, 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

Councilwoman Houston led the Prayer. Councilman Torres led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Christopher Cortez and Legal Clerk Kennilyn Schmill were present.

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

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin seconded the motion to recess to go back into the regular meeting. The motion passed with Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin, Councilman Arcuri, Becnel and Wright absent.

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

Public comments can be viewed in its entirety at www.sjbparish.com.

BOARD OF REVIEW

For a period of fifteen (15) days, beginning September 23, 2020 and ending October 7, 2020, 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, October 13th, 2020, 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 as Down Syndrome Awareness Month

Jaclyn Hotard, Parish President, read the proclamation for October as Down Syndrome Awareness Month.

Jaclyn Hotard - Proclamation - Oscar Nelson - 30th Pastoral Anniversary

Jaclyn Hotard, Parish President, read the proclamation for Oscar Nelson - 30th Pastoral Anniversary.

Jaclyn Hotard - Recognition - West St. John High School Anglers

Recognition - West St. John High School Anglers can be viewed in its entirety at www.sjbparish.com.

Tom Malik/Kurt Becnel - Presentation - Sara Merz, ACE (Adverse Childhood Experience) Resilience

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

Tammy Houston/Andrea Tullos - Presentation - Library update on Reserve property/building project

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

CONSENT AGENDA

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - September 22nd, 2020, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - West St. John High School - Homecoming Parade - Friday, October 23rd, 2020 from Noon until 2:00 PM

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - September 22nd, 2020, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - West St. John High School - Homecoming Parade - Friday, October 23rd, 2020 from Noon until 2:00 PM. The motion passed with Councilman Arcuri absent.

REPORTS:

President's Report:

The President's Report can be viewed in its entirety at www.sjbparish.com.

Michael Wright - Finance Committee Report:

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you Mr. Chairman. The finance committee, which encompassed all the council members present, met before the council meeting this evening."

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Tammy Houston/Kurt Becnel - David Gendron - (Carry Over 9-22-2020) Constituent complaint regarding Wayne Jacob smoke house emissions

Councilwoman Houston stated, "Chairman Madere I would like to defer this to Mr. Becnel, as the industry/the business is in his district."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Okay, okay, I'll comment on it. What I did, I encouraged both parties, I reached David and I also reached Jared, the owner of Wayne Jacob smoke house, and I encouraged them and I told them that would be in their best interest to engage in conversation, instead of bringing this up in front of the Council, cause there's no specific ordinance, so I did get them to have a line of communication. And they did tell me if they needed to be here, they would have called me. So, I didn't hear from them, so it's a good sign that it mean they are communicating. So, I guess right now, I don't know if I want to remove it, I'm a carry-over cause I'm going to talk to them tomorrow. Hopefully they'll resolve this, and I highly encourage. And I also offered...I told them if necessary, Councilwoman Houston and I would have no problem you know sitting in on a meeting with both of them so hopefully this'll work out. Thank you."

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION ON ORDINANCES/NEW BUSINESS:

20-29(Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending ordinance 20-10 relative to the annual operating budgets for St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds, and Capital Project Funds for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2019 and ending December 31,2019(J. Hotard)

Robert Figuero stated, "These amendments reflect changes to estimated revenues and expenditures to actual revenues and expenditures for 2019 audit. Administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 20-29. The motion passed with Councilman Arcuri and Becnel absent.

20-30(Public Hearing Held) 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 2020 Assessment Roll (J. Hotard)

Robert Figuero stated, "This is an annual requirement for approval of the 2020 Ad Valorem taxes. Administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 20-30. The motion passed with Councilman Arcuri absent.

20-31(Public Hearing Held) A millage ordinance - an ordinance providing for the Roll Forward Rate levy and collection of ad valorem taxes in the Parish of St. John the Baptist, to be spread upon the 2020 Assessment Roll (J. Hotard)

Robert Figuero stated, "This approval is required in order to roll the newly assessed 2020 millage rates back to the 2019 pre-assessed millage rates. Administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 20-31. The motion passed with Councilman Arcuri absent.

20-32(Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the re-subdivision of Lots A-2 and A-4,Reine Subdivision into Lots A-2-A, A-4-A, Reine Subdivision, located in the area generally bounded by Highway 628,the Illinois Central Railroad, and McReine Road, LaPlace, as shown in a survey prepared by Stephen P. Flynn, P.L.S.

on June 26, 2020 (PZS-20-1252) (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 September 21, 2020 meeting and by the Utility Board at its October 7, 2020 meeting. The Planning and Zoning Department finds this request is consistent with the zoning district requirements, the surrounding neighborhood development pattern, the goals of the Comprehensive Plan and meets the technical sufficiency for consideration by the Parish Council."*

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 20-32. The motion passed with Councilman Arcuri absent.

20-33 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving a re-subdivision of Tracts 660 and 661A, Blind River Campsites into Lots 660-A and 660-B, Blind River Campsites, located in the area generally bounded by Blind River, Interstate 10 and Lake Maurepas, Garyville, as shown in a survey prepared by Alvin Fairburn, P.L.S. on June 11, 2020 (PZS-20-1253) (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 September 21, 2020 meeting and by the Utility Board at its October 7, 2020 meeting. The Planning and Zoning Department finds this request is consistent with the surrounding neighborhood development pattern, the goals of the Comprehensive Plan and meets the technical sufficiency for consideration by the Parish Council."*

MOTION: Councilman Torres moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 20-33. The motion passed with Councilman Arcuri absent.

20-34 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the re-zoning of the Rousseve Tract from the Commercial District Three (C-3), Residential District One (R-1), and Industrial District One (I-1) to the Industrial District One (I-1) zoning District located in the area generally bounded by Highway 640, Highway 3127 and the St. Charles Parish Line, Edgard, as shown in Exhibit 1 attached (PZR-20-1191) (J. Hotard)

Rene Pastorek stated, *"This rezoning to facilitate development of a warehouse distribution facility was recommended with unanimous approval by the Planning Commission at its September 21, 2020 meeting. The Planning and Zoning Department finds this request is consistent with the zoning district requirements, the goals of the Comprehensive Plan and meets the technical sufficiency for consideration by the Parish Council."*

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 20-34. The motion passed with Councilman Arcuri absent.

Lennix Madere - Update from the Administration on the progress of the Water Meter Project

Robert Figuero stated, *"Thank you Councilman. Contractor and St. John training employees was completed in early September, which included some meter replacements and MTU installations. The DCU installations (the Data Collection Units) that's a total of five (5), and the electrical work have been completed and*

installed around the parish as of October 1st. Greenup and Metro completed about fifty (50) meter installations and MTU installations last week for the systems analysis testing, which has gone fairly well. Greenup and Metro plans to begin the mass deployment of the meters and MTU installations next week." Councilman Madere stated, "Okay, thank you."

Lennix Madere - Update from the Public Works Department on the progress of the hiring of a drainage crew

Jaclyn Hotard asked, "Is that your specific question?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes, yes cause I want to, one thing I want to do...I think that the council and the citizens you know this is something you're quit aware that like I said...I've been on the council for nine (9) years and I've been pushing for this, and this not necessarily a drainage department or drainage crew. It's just additional people that is going to be hired that's going to you know work on drainage and I had a conversation I think with you before and I also had a conversation with Mr. Snookie Faucheux, and he showed me a chart, I think I'm pretty sure you're aware of it and I know you'll in the process right now of putting out applications for I think it's, he told me about seventeen (17) jobs or whatever. And it has to go through the process you know, but just wanted to let the citizens know that progress is being made in that direction towards relieving some of the problem. Cause some of the, the most of problems that I receive are phone calls concerning drainage you know, and especially on rainy nights and when you have these storms you know, the phone start ringing you know and you go out there and water is basically trying almost getting in people homes and everything you know. And so, it's just a way of letting the public know that we aware, we out there working on it, and this here, when it's fully when the people are putting place and have the hirees we should see some progress. Okay and that's what the whole purpose of it you know, cause I know that it was mentioned to me but it also need to just be mentioned at the meeting that you know something is being done about it."

Jaclyn Hotard stated, "Yes that's correct, and we had about when we came in in January, I believe there were about 20 vacancies in our Public Works department. We did, we do have individuals though that work on drainage, however, those individuals work on various other tasks, which is good, because sometimes you need to have them be able to do other things. And so, we have posted...I'm not sure if we'll fill as many as we need, it'll be based on the applicants that we come in. We have Equipment Operator I, II, III, and IV posted, which the difference between you know, each of the numbers will just be skill level, some are CDL, Equipment Operator, some will be on our grass cutting crews, we're short with our grass cutting crews, and so you're Equipment Operator maybe I and II will fall in to some of those categories. We also have some/a position available for...I believe it's a Water Service Tech or Waste Water Service Tech I, and what we also do as well, and I find this is a good spot for even someone young who may not be sure of what they want to do, and can make a career out of it. Because even though you may start in a 1, whether it's Water and Waste Water, we do assist individuals with getting their classifications going to Step 2, 3, and 4, and it can be a short you know process as long as you stay on it. And we do assist those individuals, and once you get into a Class 4, the pay range is good, you know! And so, you know and we have you know good benefits and all of those things, so we're always looking for good people so, we do have that in Utilities. I tell people...you know, if you're not really sure or you don't have to be right

out of high school, I'm just saying I like to promote...keeping our young folks from having to leave, and you can make a career out of Water and Waste Water as you can do with some of those Public Works positions as well. And we also assist you know employees with CDL, you know that kind of thing, because you can just do more functions. But we do have a bunch of those positions, I'd like to fill seventeen (17), but we will fill as many as we can you know based on the applicants, and the goal would be to have people focus as much as they can on one particular thing, instead of moving throughout different disciplines even in one day, you may be on one job and then later on that day you're doing something totally different, you'd have to move equipment and things like that. So, we're just trying to get it all streamlined and get those departments as healthy as possible."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay, and I think the most important thing you said in your comments, was the fact that these are not new positions. Okay with actually twenty (20) people or seven...between seventeen (17) to twenty (20) individuals short before. Okay and myself personally, that's unacceptable. Okay, and you inherit that, okay but I mean you're in, definitely trying to fill those positions, because if they weren't needed it wouldn't be a position in the first place. So, whenever you're operating seventeen (17) or twenty (20) people short in any department, you can't function as well as you should and serve the people of the community. You know so, I'm glad that and I know it depends on passing drug test and everything else and background check and everything. So hopefully we can fill those seventeen (17) or twenty (20) vacancies and that why you can get the parish running you know at a 100% capacity as far as trying to service the individuals you know, especially drainage."

Jaclyn Hotard stated, "You're correct, I'm glad you pointed that out that these aren't new positions, I don't want that to be the headline that you know that you know...Hotard created twenty (20) new Public Works positions. These were vacancies, and so we're attempting to fill some of those vacancies. We would have posted these a lot sooner, but with Corona Virus, it's just very difficult to post and go through interviews on a Zoom platform, not everyone can use Zoom, you know like we do now because we've used it so much it's very difficult to-it was very difficult to post these positions while we were not able to have in person interviews."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay, thank you for that. And like I said, it's very important that they do know that these are not new positions, but positions that should've been filled in the past. Okay and I'm glad that this administration is moving in that direction to take care of that. Cause I always did say we short-handed."

Lennix Madere - Update from the Administration on the progress of the West Shore Levee Project

Councilman Madere stated, "Update from the Administration on the progress of the West Shore Levee Project and I know we talked about that on the phone, but can you give us an update?"

Jaclyn Hotard stated, "Yep, we'll give a little update, and just to let the public know...we do post updates on Channel 15. I have a segment that I've just started to do, it's called 'WEST SHORE WEDNESDAYS' and on the 4th Wednesday of each month. I go through all of the updates of where we are with the West Shore

Levee Project. The reason I selected the 4th Wednesday is because every 4th Wednesday I have a meeting with the Army Corp of Engineers and the Pontchartrain Levee Districts. So, once I get the most current updates from them, then I bring them to 'WEST SHORE WEDNESDAYS'. If you don't have Facebook Live, like I said we'll put it/we post that little video on Channel 15 and as always, feel free to always to email me or call my office. And just to give a little quick, quick, I know it's a late meeting, but it's 18.5 miles of levee that will be constructed in St. John, the project is fully funded by Federal Government it's picking up 65% of it, the other 35% is being paid for by non-federal sponsors CPRA, and then the parish will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of it. I wish I had my map in front of me, but there will be four (4) pumps associated with this levee system, flood gates, all these types of things. Where we are right now on the process, the first thing that the Corp had to do was clear out the 18.5 miles to do some environmental assessments, that has been complete, the phase that we're in now it's called LERD-it's land acquisitions easements, right of ways and disposal sites. And that's just as it says, acquiring land from some private property owners, that are in the path of the levee. The easements, also the parish will have to assign some right of ways or donate some right of ways to the Corp to build the access roads, have a really good map on online and we'll put that again in the L'Observateur. But lay down all of the access roads, build that with the sand base and then the disposal sites. Once all of that is complete, then the levee project progresses, the very last thing of a levee project, is actually putting the dirt on the ground, all of the other steps have to happen first. The anticipated completion date of the levee is in Fall of 2023 or Spring of 2024, that's when we can expect everything to become complete. I can tell you on our end, and I have to thank the District Attorney's office, some of the right of ways that we need to assign to the Corp to allow them to start to construct these access roads, the District Attorney is working with me on expediting some of those processes, because we have to go through appraisals-it wasn't expected to be...that part completed until March, we're able to do that a little sooner. I'll be bringing that forward to the Council hopefully in the next 30 days, so whatever we can do on our end to speed things up, just takes a long time to go through all the of processes. But the levee is funded, it is being constructed...all though the last thing you will see is going to be the dirt on the ground. You'll know when things are moving quickly, because we'll be inconvenienced by traffic. And people have asked, will there be a lot of truck traffic on the road? Yes! Will it be an inconvenience? Yes! Will it be worth it in the end? Yes! That event that we had where we had the coastal, the north-northeast winds and our I-55, and our I-10 interchange was completely shut down, that won't happen with this levee system. We would still need to address our inland drainage problems that we have, but as far as storm surge, coastal flooding, things like that, it will be remedied with this the levee project. So, things are actually moving along, I can tell you like I said, we meet every month...myself, Pontchartrain Levee District, Army Corps of Engineers to make sure that we're staying on those timelines. They have had many of the contracts already LET (is what they're called when they put them out in award, some stockpile contracts have been awarded, there's been on for about \$20 million, it's actually to a local company and I believe they awarded another contract last week or the week before. So, things are really moving and feel free and like I said, call my office anytime, I feel like I don't even need notes anymore because I talk to them so much about it, I'm just very familiar with the project, but it is the single most right now, important project to St. John because it's how we're going to protect all of our homes and businesses from flooding. Every hurricane that gets there in the Gulf, as you all do...I get anxiety. You know

but again, end of 2023 beginning of 2024, hopefully the 2023 hurricane season will be the last season/hurricane season, that we will go through without the flood protection levee. And this project got started in the 70's, so when some people say well man that seems so long 3 years, I say well, if you were around in the 70's, you know that this is it's finally happening. So again, and actually the Corps, they were actually so excited about 'WEST SHORE WEDNESDAYS', and we get some extra lil points I know in our Planning & Zoning Department for doing that. Mr. Chris Gilmore, who is the Engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers, he stopped me at the last meeting and he was so excited he wants to come on it, and I fell like a talk show host now, and so I said, yeah sure! So, at our next episode of 'WEST SHORE WEDNESDAYS', he will be there also answering questions and he can, he's the Engineer on the project so he can really give some good engineering type answers to the questions. But I'll be happy to answer any questions from the Council or the public if they have them, but that's where we are."

Councilman Madere stated, "Thank you Mrs. Hotard. I think you gave a real good update on it, and I know we talked on the phone about it and understood about the Facebook, and I definitely think that's asset you know and also the people can go to the parish website. You know but I thought it was good that we have a discussion at the open meeting, and first thing I'd like to commend the individuals/citizens that came to this meeting. Cause I'm watching you'll and you'll really been paying attention, to every topic we talked about you know and we talked about mental health with the kids, everyone you know was really paying attention everybody was focused on Mrs. Hotard in that corner over there. And I saw I think everyone got the complete message you know they going to take and carry it out and talk to their friends and neighbors about it."

Lennix Madere - Update from the Utilities Department on the progress of the corrections needed to be made at the Parish Sewer Plant Facilities

Jaclyn Hotard stated, "Thank you, and I believe most of these residents are here for the last two (2) items, as much as they enjoy hearing all the other presentations. I think that's why they're still hanging on with us, but we are glad you're here. Mr. Alexander is actually out today, but I'll be more than happy to answer any questions. I can tell you that we are aggressively working at consolidating a lot of our facilities, we've begun to do that with the success of the oxidation pond. I believe many council members have visited this, and my intention is to fully consolidate and become as efficient as possible in all our departments, and that's what we're working on. We do know that many of the deficiencies, it's been thirty and for years, I can't even place blame on any individual on the administration, and a lot of the things we are trying to address have been years and years, many, many years in the making, and we are trying to address as many as we can. We know that even in 10 years from now we'll still have some, but we're aggressively working, we've begun to consolidate...I believe ones consolidated, we're working on to other ones right now so that we can have an economy of scale if you will, and not have everything spread out all over the place and use our resources a little bit more wisely."

Rene Pastorek - Council consideration of the Planning Commission's recommendation to deny application number PZR-20-1186 to rezone Tract GL-1 of the George Lasseigne Tract from the Residential District One (R-1) to the Rural zoning district

Rene Pastorek stated, "This rezoning request to establish operation of a commercial dirt pit was recommended with unanimous denial by the Planning Commission at its September 21, 2020 meeting. The Planning and Zoning Department finds this request is consistent with the zoning district requirements, the Future Land Use Map, the intent of the Comprehensive Plan and meets the technical sufficiency for consideration by the Parish Council."

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin seconded the motion to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to DENY application number PZR-20-1186 to rezone Tract GL-1 of the George Lasseigne from the Residential District One (R-1) to the Rural zoning district. The motion passed with Councilman Arcuri absent.

Rene Pastorek - Council consideration of the Planning Commission's recommendation to deny application number PZR-20-1187 to rezone Lot No. 7, Elvina Plantation from the Commercial District Three (C-3) and Residential District One (R-1) to the Rural zoning district

Rene Pastorek stated, "This rezoning request to establish operation of a commercial dirt pit was recommended with unanimous denial by the Planning Commission at its September 21, 2020 meeting. The Planning and Zoning Department finds this request is consistent with the zoning district requirements, the Future Land Use Map, the intent of the Comprehensive Plan and meets the technical sufficiency for consideration by the Parish Council."

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Torres seconded the motion to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to DENY application number PZR-20-1187 to rezone Lot No. 7, Elvina Plantation from the Commercial District Three (C-3) and Residential District One (R-1) to the Rural zoning district. The motion passed with Councilman Arcuri absent.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

20-35 An ordinance authorizing the Office of the Parish President to acquire a Perpetual Roadway Expansion Servitude across a certain portion of ground described as Parcel 3, now or formerly owned by Carville-Lasseigne, LLC further known as Lot 1, Square B (Parker Lot), Farm Lot 5, Woodland Plantation for a distance of 107.65 feet along Main Street with a depth of 2 feet, as depicted in Exhibit A. (J. Hotard)

20-36 An ordinance authorizing the Office of the Parish President to acquire a Perpetual Roadway Expansion Servitude across a certain portion of ground described as Parcel 1, now or formerly owned by Carville-Lasseigne, LLC further known as Lots 1 and Part 2, Farm Lot 5, Woodland Plantation for a distance of 198 feet along Main Street with a depth of 2 feet, as depicted in Exhibit A (J. Hotard)

20-37 An ordinance authorizing the Office of the Parish President to acquire a Perpetual Roadway Expansion Servitude across a certain portion of ground described as Parcel 2, now or formerly owned by DLC Properties, LLC further known as Part Lots 2 and 4 (Old Post Office), Farm Lot 5, Woodland Plantation for a distance of 130

feet along Main Street with a depth of 2 feet, as depicted in Exhibit A (J. Hotard)

20-38 An ordinance amending ordinance 20-17 relative to the annual operating budgets for St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds, and Capital Project Funds for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020 (J. Hotard)

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS:

The correspondence/council briefs can be viewed in its entirety at www.sjbparish.com.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:22 PM, Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilwoman Schnyder 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.