

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**  
**CHAIRMAN MICHAEL WRIGHT**  
**VICE-CHAIR LENNIX MADERE**

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 Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 6:00 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, Robert Arcuri, Councilman District V, Tonia Schnyder, Councilwoman District VI, Thomas Malik, Councilman District VII, Michael Wright, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B

**ABSENT:** Tyra Duhe-Griffin

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

WHEREAS, LOUISIANA COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATION, JAY DARDENNE ANNOUNCED STATE OFFICE CLOSURES FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2022 IN EXPECTATION OF SEVERE WEATHER. SIXTEEN SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA PARISHES WILL BE CLOSED ALL DAY, WHILE 12 PARISHES ALONG I-12 AND THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER WILL CLOSE AT NOON; AND WHEREAS, ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH, 1 OF THE 12 PARISHES ALONG I-12 AND THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER THAT WAS IDENTIFIED TO CLOSE AT NOON; AND WHEREAS, AT THE DIRECTION OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT, JACLYN HOTARD, REGARDING THE CLOSING OF ALL PARISH BUILDINGS ON TUESDAY, MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2022 AT NOON, THE JUDGES OF THE 40th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT ISSUED AN ORDER CLOSING THE EDGARD COURTHOUSE AT NOON; AND WHEREAS, THE ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2022 AT 6:00 PM TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS; AND WHEREAS, IN RESPONSE TO AN EXPECTATION OF SEVERE WEATHER, ON MONDAY, MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2022, THE COUNCIL AMENDED ITS AGENDA TO CHANGE ITS MEETING TIME FROM 6:00 PM, MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2022 TO 2:30 PM; AND WHEREAS, ALL STATE AND PARISH OFFICES IN ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH WILL CLOSE AT NOON DUE TO AN EXPECTATION OF SEVERE WEATHER, ON MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2022, IT IS NECESSARY THAT THE ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL AMEND ITS AGENDA TO CHANGE THE TUESDAY, MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2022 MEETING DATE TO THURSDAY, MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 AND ITS 2:30 PM START TIME TO 6:00 PM.

Councilman Arcuri led the Prayer. Councilwoman Schnyder led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Christopher Cortez was present.

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

There was no public comment at this time.

**Tammy Houston - Presentation - Krewe of Agape XVIII King Jamil Sharif and Queen Nydia Cooper**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**ITEMS:** Approval of Minutes - March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Council Meeting; Councilman Becnel - Appointment of Telley Bornes to the Economic Development Committee; Resolutions - Annual Sewer Audits (R22-36 through R22-43)

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Schnyder moved and Councilman Torres seconded the motion to vote on consent agenda items individually. The motion passed with 7 Yeas, 1 Against (Houston) and 1 Absent (Duhe-Griffin).

**MOTION:** Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve consent agenda item A) Approval of Minutes - March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Council Meeting. The motion passed with Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin absent.

**MOTION:** Councilman Becnel moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to approve consent agenda item B) Councilman Becnel - Appointment of Telley Bornes to the Economic Development Committee. The motion passed with Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin absent.

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to approve consent agenda item C) Resolutions - Annual Sewer Audits (R22-36 through R22-43). The motion passed with 6 Yeas, 2 Nays (Schnyder & Torres) and 1 absent (Duhe-Griffin).

Councilwoman Schnyder stated, for the record, that we have the consent agenda item include eight (8) resolutions, and the resolution, each one of the resolutions states that the St. John the Baptist Parish Council hereby resolved that the city/town of St. John the Baptist Parish informs Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality that the following actions were taken by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council and Administration. The first item states reviewed the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Environmental Audit Report, which is attached to this resolution. There was never any attachment we never received the audit. When I questioned today, the secretary, where was the audit we never received, because we're voting saying that we reviewed the audit that we never received. The secretary stated the file was too large she didn't send them. She sent them at 2:20 today, there was sixteen (16) attachments, I personally didn't have time to read sixteen (16) attachments at 2:20 p.m. today."

**REPORTS:**

**Jaclyn Hotard - Monthly Financial Report (February 2022)**

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

**Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R22-44 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to reject the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Hurricane Ida Emergency Recovery River Road Wastewater Treatment Plant Temporary Belt Press Project**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R22-44. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to reject the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Hurricane Ida Emergency

Recovery River Road Wastewater Treatment Plant Temporary Belt Press 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 is for services for emergency work consisting of removing, processing and dewatering approximately 180 wet tons of sludge in the digester tanks that have accumulated since Hurricane Ida; and WHEREAS, the only proposal received in the amount of \$506,400 exceeds the budgeted amount of \$288,400 available for this project. 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 Request for Proposal (RFP) received the Hurricane Ida Emergency Recovery River Road Wastewater Treatment Plant Temporary Belt Press Project. The motion passed with Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin absent.

**Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R22-45 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to re-advertise and receive Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Hurricane Ida Emergency Recovery River Road Wastewater Treatment Plant Temporary Belt Press Project**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R22-45. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to re-advertise and receive Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Hurricane Ida Emergency Recovery River Road Wastewater Treatment Plant Temporary Belt Press 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 request is to re-advertise and receive proposals for services for emergency work consisting of removing, processing and dewatering approximately 180 wet tons of sludge in the digester tanks that have accumulated since Hurricane Ida; and WHEREAS, the selected Contractor will also maintain the digester tanks once a month; and WHEREAS, the project will be funded through the Hurricane Ida Fund with FEMA reimbursement. The motion passed with Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin absent.

**Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R22-46 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to award the bid for the 2022 Parish Wide Street Ditch Drainage Improvements to LA Contracting Enterprise, LLC**

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R22-46. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to award the bid for the 2022 Parish Wide Street Ditch Drainage Improvements to LA Contracting Enterprise, LLC. 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, LA Contracting Enterprise, LLC of Thibodaux, LA submitted the lowest responsive and responsible bid; and WHEREAS, various items such as excavation and culvert replacement will be ordered on an as-needed basis for the Public Works Department; and WHEREAS, purchases will be funded through the Public Works 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 2022 Parish Wide Street

Ditch Drainage Improvements to LA Contracting Enterprise, LLC. The motion passed with Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin absent.

**Jaclyn Hotard - Resolution - R22-47 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to advertise and receive Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Design Services for the Animal Shelter**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R22-47. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to advertise and receive Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Design Services for the Animal Shelter. 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 Animal Shelter sustained extensive damage due to Hurricane Ida on August 29, 2021; and WHEREAS, as a result, the Animal Shelter needs to be re-constructed to operational use. 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 Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Design Services for the Animal Shelter. The motion passed with 7 Yeas, 1 Abstain (Schnyder) and 1 Absent (Duhe-Griffin).

**Jaclyn Hotard/Reed Alexander - Resolution - R22-48 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to amend the Professional Services Agreement with Curtis Engineering Services, LLC for the Sewer Force Main Extension Connection from River Road Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to Reserve Wastewater Treatment Pond Project for Design Services**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R22-48. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to amend the Professional Services Agreement with Curtis Engineering Services, LLC for the Sewer Force Main Extension Connection from River Road Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to Reserve Wastewater Treatment Pond Project for Design 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, Curtis Engineering Services, LLC provides design services for the Sewer Force Main Extension Connection from River Road WWTP to the Reserve Wastewater Treatment Pond Project; and WHEREAS, this Amendment includes additional surveying, geotechnical borings and sub-surface exploration required to obtain additional information along the proposed force main route adjacent to Big Lou Avenue from Airline Highway to the Reserve Wastewater Treatment Pond and investigate the location of the existing force main; and WHEREAS, the cost of this Amendment is \$45,540 and will be funded through the LDEQ Clean Water State Revolving Loan. 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 Curtis Engineering Services, LLC. The motion passed with Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin absent.

**Jaclyn Hotard/Reed Alexander - Resolution - R22-49 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to amend the Professional Services Agreement with Digital**

**Engineering and Imaging, Inc. for Grant Funded Project Engineering Support and Grant Management Assistance**

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R22-49. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to amend the Professional Services Agreement with Digital Engineering and Imaging, Inc. for Grant Funded Project Engineering Support and Grant Management Assistance. 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 project management, grant and loan management and departmental support; and, WHEREAS, Digital Engineering and Imaging, Inc. has successfully secured and is currently managing \$4.5M in grants for various departments; and, WHEREAS, this Amendment is for a not to exceed amount of \$125,000 and is funded through the General Fund, Utilities and Wastewater Budgets, Planning and Zoning and reimbursements from grants. 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 Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin absent.

**Jaclyn Hotard - Resolution - R22-50 - A Resolution adopting a Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire as a required part of St. John the Baptist Parish's Annual Financial and Compliance Audit**

**MOTION:** Councilman Malik moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R22-50. A Resolution adopting a Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire as a required part of St. John the Baptist Parish's Annual Financial and Compliance Audit. 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 Legislative Auditor required that a Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire be completed by the Parish President and adopted by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council; and, WHEREAS, the attached questionnaire must be presented to the auditor at the beginning of the annual audit; and, WHEREAS, the auditor will test the accuracy of the response to the questionnaire during the course of the audit. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that St. John the Baptist Parish is hereby authorized to adopt a Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire. The motion passed with Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin absent.

**Jaclyn Hotard - Resolution - R22-51 - A Resolution asking Congress to delay the Implementation of Risk Rating 2.0/2.1 as it relates to the National Flood Insurance Program**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Schnyder moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R22-51. A Resolution asking Congress to delay the Implementation of Risk Rating 2.0/2.1 as it relates to the National Flood Insurance 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, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is attempting to use a Risk Rating 2.0 method to value flood insurance premiums for the National Flood Insurance Program; and, WHEREAS, October 2021 began Phase 1 of the new rating system, referred to as Risk Rating 2.0 or otherwise known as Equity in Action; and WHEREAS, property owners with new policies or renewal between October and today have received insurance premiums based on this new methodology; and WHEREAS, many of the premiums are up to 800 percent higher than previous premiums under the current system despite the reference by FEMA of an 18 percent increase cap; and WHEREAS, insurance agents are recognizing many inconsistencies with this new rating system; and WHEREAS, the new rating system unfairly charges higher valued homes with unaffordable premiums with no additional coverage offered for the premium paid. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that St. John the Baptist Parish hereby asks the current Administration and Congress to delay the implementation of Risk Rating 2.0 until Local Governments and Communities have been offered a comment period to address the following: 1. Clarification from FEMA on how additional perils outside of storm surge and rainfall are factored into the National Flood Insurance Program 2. Clarification from FEMA on calculation of full risk rating 3. Report from FEMA including data on how many current policy holders have been offered to an opted into the new system since October 1, 2021, broken down by state 4. FEMA takes into consideration feasibility and sustainability into the fiscal calculation of the program's deficit plan NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that St. John the Baptist Parish hereby asks the current Administration and Congress to allow policy holders to continue to opt of Risk Rating 2.0/2.1 past the planned date of April 1, 2022, or until the comment period has been completed and taken into consideration. The motion passed with Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin and Councilman Madere absent.

**Jaclyn Hotard - Resolution - R22-52 - A Resolution authorizing the Parish President to execute a Temporary Conditional Use Permit for the placement of up to 97 FEMA trailers at 2150 West Airline Hwy., LaPlace, and in accordance with the attached plans**

**MOTION:** Councilman Malik moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R22-52. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to execute a Temporary Conditional Use Permit for the placement of up to 97 FEMA trailers at 2150 West Airline Hwy., LaPlace, and in accordance with the attached plans. 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, Hurricane Ida made landfall of the coast of Southeast Louisiana on August 29, 2021, causing devastating flooding and wind damage throughout St. John the Baptist Parish; and WHEREAS, Hurricane Ida's wrath threatened the safety, health, and welfare of the citizens of St. John the Baptist Parish, along with private property and public facilities; and WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to approve the placement of up to 97 temporary FEMA trailers at 2150 W. Airline Highway, LaPlace, LA identified by St. John Parish Assessor Number 0400283800 to address the housing crisis facing residents following the devastation of Hurricane Ida. 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 the attached Temporary Conditional Use Permit for FEMA Group Housing in accordance with the attached plans and associated conditions. The motion passed with Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin absent.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**Announcement of Public Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the St. John the Baptist Parish Government Complex Chambers, 1811 W. Airline Hwy., LaPlace, Louisiana, the St. John the Baptist Parish Council plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling an election to be held in the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana to authorize the renewal of ad valorem taxes therein

**22-10** An ordinance approving the rezoning of a 96 x 100-foot lot of the Camille Alexander Tract from the Residential District One [R-1] to the Residential District Two [R-2] zoning district, located in the area generally bounded by W 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, W 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Beech Street, and Madeline Court, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, as shown in Exhibit 1 attached. (PZR-22-1286)

**22-11** An ordinance approving a re-subdivision of Lot 35 & the north half of Lot 36, Dinvaut Subdivision into Lot 35A Dinvaut Subdivision located in the area generally bounded by Central Avenue, Highway 18. Castle Drive, and the T & P Railroad, Edgard, St. John the Baptist Parish, as shown in a survey prepared by Stephen P. Flynn on January 7, 2022. (PZS-22-1300)

**22-12** An ordinance approving the rezoning of Lot A-A, Hemple Estate Subdivision from the Commercial District One [C-1] & Residential District One [R-1] to the Residential District One [R-1] zoning district, located in the area generally bounded by E 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Water Tower Lane, Highway 18, and Glendale Plantation Road, Lucy, St. John the Baptist Parish, as shown in Exhibit 1 attached. (PZR-22-1278)

**CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:35 PM, Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilwoman Schnyder seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin absent.

/s/Michael Wright  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary