

**ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2021**  
**6 O’CLOCK PM**  
**OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.**  
**OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

**AGENDA**

**MEMBERS: Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, and Timmy Lejeune. Ex-Officio Dexter Brown.**

1. Call to Order.
2. Roll Call.
3. Persons to Address the Committee.  
There was no one to address this committee
4. Parish President & Finance Reports:
  - a. March Budget to Actual Financial Statements.  
Amanda Cain, Finance Director presented her March Budget to Actual Report to the Council. She stated,  
**General Fund** Revenue at the end of March: \$2,270,512.38.  
**Expenditures:** \$1,049,430.19.  
**Net Income:** \$1,221,082.19.  
Amanda Cain, Finance Director stated she is concerned about the inmate cost which will be discussed later.  
  
**Road and Bridge Fund:** Revenue at the end of March: \$313,997.61, **Expenditures:** \$561,634.16.  
**Net Loss:** -\$247,636.55.  
Amanda Cain, Finance Director stated the Racino and Parish Transportation is behind in sending their funding.  
Councilman Coby Clavier questioned the comparison of funding to pre COVID.  
Amanda Cain, Finance Director stated, “The funding is not at 100% but it is better than it has been. It is probably at 90 to 95%. It is getting back to normal.”  
  
**Health Unit:** Revenue at the end of March: \$1,407,467.37,  
**Expenditures:** \$506,154.06.  
**Net Income:** \$901,313.31.  
  
**Jail Maintenance (024):** \$644,776.63.  
**Expenses:** \$194,774.10  
**Net Income:** \$450,002.53  
Councilman Harold Taylor questioned the Prison Inmate Jail Funds. Amanda Cain, Finance Director stated, “On Inmate Cost, we are not over budgeted but we are projected to be. Some of that American Rescue Money is going to be used to offset.”  
**Airport:** \$113,633.19  
**Expenses:** \$124,822.17  
**Net Loss:** -\$11,188.98  
Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned the Net Loss at the Airport.  
Finance Director Amanda Cain stated, “This is how the Airport has operated. Every single month the revenue just tends to be behind with the fuel. We had a Net Income at the end of 2020. We are still very optimistic and we are still on Budget.  
  
**Road District 12 of Ward 2 Maint. (0326).** \$234,631.97  
**Expenses:** \$104,418.91  
**Net Income:** \$130,213.06  
**Cash Balance at the end of March:** \$231,242.93  
*Finance Director Amanda Cain presented the council with a copy of the details for March behind each Road District.*

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned the monthly payment on a Grader.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "That was a decision that the council made before I became Parish President. I will check on this situation."

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "That is Muscadine Road. Mr. Bellard, I hope you can guarantee that these roads will get graded more often if we go to Central Service. I will have no problem with that. Before you came here, that was the only way that we could get some roads graded." Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, "We have someone here that states they have not seen a grader in three months. Just think if we go back to how we were before. I have seen before we have rented a grader for our district, there were about 4 or 5 months that we have not seen a grader." Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "It is not the Grader, It is the personnel that we don't have to operate a grader." Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, "If we have problems, maybe our three district need to get together and hire someone that can operate a grader." Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "It cannot be done that way Mr. Alvin because the Parish Government Home Rule Charter has everything done under the Parish President's office." Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "The Council voted to use their money to buy a grader/lease a grader and reimburse the parish for the labor. I don't see anything wrong. Maybe we need to get an Attorney General's Opinion before you start making these statements." Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I will put it in the budget next year and let the council decide. Dealing with the Road District, the council members that represent those district don't make the decision on how that money is spent. When it comes time to the budget next year, I will have it come out of Central Services." Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Why don't we work together and amend the budget and include it." Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I can understand where you are coming from Mr. Bellard, but I can also understand that when you were here before, we did some similar things. We can sit here and discuss it all night long but the thing about it is, we have to look out for those tax payers out there that need the help."

**Road District 1 of Ward 3 Maint. (027)**

**Total Income:** \$297,647.04

**Expenses:** \$76,774.31

**Net Income:** \$220,872.73

**Cash Balance:** \$495,469.52

**Sub Road District 2 of Road District 11A Ward 1 (028)**

**Total Income:** \$203,578.54

**Expenses:** \$120,957.42

**Net Income:** \$82,621.12

**Cash Balance:** \$226,591.64

**Sub Road Dist 1, Road District 3 Ward 1 Maint. (029)**

**Total Income:** \$110,656.78

**Expenses:** \$80,641.22

**Net Income:** \$30,015.56

**Cash Balance:** \$226,591.64

**Sub Road 1 of Road 11A Maint (42)**

**Total Income:** \$274,820.89

**Expenses:** \$57,870.10

**Net Income:** \$216,950.79

**Cash Balance:** \$362,743.24

b. **Airport Coronavirus Relief Grant Agreement**

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021** authorizing the Parish President to sign the Airport Coronavirus Relief Grant Program Grant Agreement.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

**Motion forwarded.**

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to accept the Parish President & Finance Report.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

**Motion carried.**

5. Forward to full council **RESOLUTION NO. 004 of 2021**

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021** approving **Resolution No. 004 or 2021.**

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

**Motion forwarded.**

**RESOLUTION 004 OF 2021**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2021 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by St. Landry Parish Council:

**2021 MILLAGES**

General Alimony	3.780 mills
Exempted Municipalities	1.890 mills
Health Units	2.170 mills
Jail Parish Wide	1.000 mills
Road District No 11A Sub 1	9.260 mills
Road District No 11A Sub 2	8.430 mills
Road District No 1 Ward 3	10.260 mills
Road District No 3 Ward 1 Sub 1	9.650 mills
Road District No 12 Ward 2	4.800 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2021, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

6. Forward to full council **RESOLUTION NO. 005 of 2021**

**AUTHORIZING CIVICSOURCE TO ADMINISTER AN ADJUDICATED PROPERTIES SALE PROGRAM.**

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. asked for clarity on this Resolution.

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "The last resolution we had to go with the last contract that we had with Civic Source authorizes Bill Fontenot to sign the Non Warranty Cash Sales. Jessie will be signing them with the proper authorization. That is what this Resolution does."

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to regular meeting held on Wednesday **May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021** approving **Resolution No. 005 of 2021.**

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

**Motion forwarded.**

7. Forward to full council **RESOLUTION NO. 006 of 2021**

**AUTHORIZING ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT TO CONVEY OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY TO FIRE DISTRICT NO.7.**

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021** approving Resolution No. 006 or 2021.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.  
**Motion forwarded.**

8. Authorize Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement with Fire District No. 7 for ownership of property.

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021** to authorize the Parish President to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement with Fire District No. 7 for ownership of property.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

**Motion forwarded.**

9. Discuss any other business properly brought before this committee.

Councilman Jerry Red stated, "The demographer spoke to us about the different precincts. He said it would be cut down by probably about 4 precincts. I have been getting a lot of calls from several constituents. They were wondering if we were going to have about 40 something precincts being cut down. Do you know anything different from what I have heard? From what I understood, they said it was only going to be about 4 precincts possibly being cut." Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I can't talk about what happened in 2019 but it will start with 9 precincts from 92 to 53. That is what he was explaining to us at the last meeting. I think Mr. Don has a special meeting called next week to discuss that very issue." Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned Parish President Jessie Bellard regarding grading the private roads. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I did get with Mr. Duplechain regarding that. I think he is doing some research on it. We have an Ordinance drafted to bring to the full council. He is just checking on a couple of things. Mainly what we will do is ask the land owners on those private roads to pay the fees and the cost associated with the work if it is legal." Councilman Jerry Red Jr., questioned Parish President Jessie Bellard regarding Workforce Investments. He asked if the people that work for Workforce Investments work for St. Landry Parish or eight different Parishes. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "They work for all eight parishes. They just report to our office. We have to be the one to administer the program. We are the Grant recipient of the program." Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "If they come to you and ask for an increase in pay, is that done before we make our budget or is that being taken out of their funds." Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "That is being paid out of their budget. It has nothing to do with our General Funds or anything on our budget side." Councilman Jerry Red Jr. questioned if a Workforce Investment employee request a raise at any time of the year? Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "They have a board that have to approve it first and that request goes to the State. Once that is approved then it is put in place." Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "The same thing like here, once we approve our budget or unless we amend it, a raise cannot be given." Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Not necessarily, On our end, we can give out a raise on our employees whenever it is needed." Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Even though the budget has been approved." Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "A couple of weeks ago I got a call from Clerk of Court regarding the merger/splitting of districts in our 2019 Ordinance. It precipitated doing a little research to find out exactly what we've asked and what we did. I have little background information that I would like to give that will give us a better understanding of what we are trying to do. In 2018 the Louisiana Legislature adopted RS 18:532.1B92 allowing Parish Government Authority to design a clean set of Prospective Precinct Boundaries and preparation for the redistricting of Council Districts in 2021 as a result of the 2020 Census which we have not received the results. It has just been released a few days ago. In 2019 the council adopted an Ordinance 2019-015. An Ordinance to create Prospective Precincts by the Split and/or Merger of Precinct Geography in Accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 18:532 and 18:532.1. In 2021 the Precinct Plan was created to the collaboration of effort thru our Demographer, Mr. Hefner, Registrar of voters, Ms. Milburn, State Legislative Office and then we adopted it by the council. Basically the new Precinct Plan combines several small precincts that voted in same polling locations into a larger precinct. The polling locations stays the same for voters. They don't have to go anywhere else, they vote at the same place, there is no change at the polling locations in the 2021 Precinct Ordinance. The intent of the Split and/or Merger was to lower the cost of elections in which the Parish

Council was responsible to pay for. For example, when elections are held parish wide, with state elected officials and parish elected officials on the ballot, particularly the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, Sheriff, District Attorney, Clerk of Court, Assessor and Parish President. The Parish Council is responsible for paying one half of the cost of election. The average cost per precinct is \$3,300.00. With the Parish having 92 Precincts the cost is around \$300,000.00 for an election. One Public Organization signed policies should be the goal of every elected official. Signed policies is a matter that is derived from analyzing existing data of past elections. Clearly in this matter the battle suggested that we have room for improvement and efficiency in the cost of election for our parish residents. The data indicates early voting numbers or increasing to-fo by reducing the number of voters on Election Day. The new precinct plan reduces precincts from 92 to 53. Our Demographer has stated that once the Census data is in, we will add additional precincts. Even if we don't extend 53, we still have capacity of each of the precincts to vote the number of voters that would be in that particular precincts to the extent we can reduce precincts. We don't know at this time because we don't have the result of the Census Data. We need to consider in the Legislature accepts Reapportionment in the Legislative District, both the house and the senate will start sight in New Orleans and work North. When they get North and just south of us is Lafayette, St. Martin, Acadia, we have small precincts on the way and they need 100 votes here and 500 votes there, they can't split a precinct to take voters, they will have to take whole precinct. When you have a large precinct they have to take 1000 voters or 700 voters, whatever it is. I have the rough data of what I have just read to you. We got room to shrink the precincts and save money for the citizens of this parish and still have a very effective transparent and save voting election. Even if we voted at a special meeting to change what we want to change, and I understand we want to do Alpha Split. You are dealing with alphabetical order. If you have a precinct and all the A's – M's here, what have you accomplished. You have added three more commissioners and increased the cost. There will be changes, my district will loose and it has lost population in the 10 years. That mean some voters will have to vote in a different precinct but we don't know that at this time. If they had a problem with this, they should have brought it up in 2019 and not 2021. I urge you all not to get involved until we get the Census Data."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "One of the problems as you stated, we don't have the data from the Census. Because of that reason, I am definitely in favor of the Alpha Split. We cannot change what we have done. My memory seems to fail me, because when I voted, I think I didn't fully understand. Recently I have been educated and we also will have Ms. Milburn. I have recently spoke to Mr. Jagneaux. I think their specialty is more informative than me. When we have our special meeting, I think we are inviting them to come over and explain to us and break things down. We are one of the only parishes that voted to change this. All the other parishes did not necessarily go along with this. I will say wait until the special meeting and get another side and get other opinions and as a council we can look into seeing what we want to do."

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "We were looking at saving the tax payers some money. I think we all voted for it except Mr. Lejeune who was absent because he was ill at the time."

Chairman Dexter Brown stated, "Ms. Elise Babin from the election division of the Secretary of the State basically sated that we don't need to wait on the Census because all the precincts are locked in until 2023, they are basically frozen. With this Alpha Split it will be alphabetized. For example: A-H, I-P, Q-Z. It will also go by numbers as well. They have certain polling places that need to be in a larger area. I have also retrieved a copy of all St. Landry Parish Polling Places from Ms. Milburn. They have all the polling places and the number of people voting at each individual polling place. This is a little literature that I would like for you all to go over starting from tonight. The Special Meeting will be held on **Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6 p.m.** in our Council Chambers. We have done all the necessary notifications to the newspaper."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Mr. Brown, I understand that maybe they are not happy with the decision they made when they voted. I would like for someone to give me some clarity tonight. We are calling a special meeting to change the way the vote happened. I would like to know, what is Alpha going to do for that." What does it change other than add cost. We are spending money for nothing. Explain to me what exactly Alpha is going to do. Who is spear heading this and what is it going to do for us.

Chairman Dexter Brown stated, "The situation with the Alpha Precinct, I wanted to call a special meeting where as every councilmember will be there and we will vote on it."

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mr. Duplechain, Mr. Brown is the Chairman of this Council. I totally agree, I am the one who nominated him. He is asking to have a meeting and I am going to ask councilmember who are in favor of having a special meeting. I taught this was all decided before. It went to the state and it was decided that we wait for the proper numbers given to us, then we can decide if we change some polling places or do we still have the number of polling places." Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "The Home Rule Charter states that the Chairman can call a special meeting. Whether or not we have a Quorum is a different matter. A Parish President or a Chairman or Majority of the Council can call a special meeting. The final decision is up to the majority of the council. The council can vote on whether or not they want a special meeting. Ultimately at the end, it will depend if a Quorum show up or not." Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Are we inviting the Clerk of Court, the Demographer, The Secretary of the State, The Election Commission." Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "I did some research into that this morning. There are 15 precincts where there are 12,000 to 16,000 voters. Those are the biggest precinct that we have. If you split those polling places where people vote, you will get double the voting machines, double the election workers, twice as many people will vote at that one time. That is what it means. The address won't change." Councilman Harold Taylor questioned Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain. He stated, "You have 15 of the 53 Precincts you want to Split in Alpha is that you are saying? You will be adding 15 precincts to 53 other precincts, what is that number. Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "We are not adding precincts, we adding polling places. If we Alpha Split those 15 Precincts, those 15 polling places where people vote would have double the voting machine, double the election workers and twice of many people would have be able to vote at one time. That is the only change. That is the only difference. I am not advocating. That is not my job. I am just saying what will happen." Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, "I taught we were trying to save the people money. We will spend more money than trying to save people some money." Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "That mean more personnel will be hired. I just want to save the tax payers some money. Out of all due to respect Mr. Brown, call your meeting. I just don't know what we are going to change."

10. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier to adjourn the Administrative Finance Committee Meeting.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

**Motion carried.**

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE  
KAREN BARLOW, ASSISTANT COUNCIL CLERK**