

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 5th, 2021
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Public Works Chairman Jimmie Edwards called the Public Works Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. Councilman Harold Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.
3. Roll Call: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. Ex. Officio Dexter Brown. ABSENT: None.
4. Person to address the Committee:
 - Mr. Carl Fontenot addressed the council regarding a fence on Seminole Lane and Wichita Lane. He stated in 2009 the council voted that the fence was illegal. This fence is still blocking a public road. There is a concrete barrier on Seminole Lane that does not belong to the parish. I have given council members' dockets from a hearings and Judge Caswell have decided to leave those roads closed. Mr. Fontenot stated on his street, Wichita Lane, there is a fence at the end of the road that had Asphalt dug up and a Cul-de-sac was built and it is not a thru street. There is no Ordinance that can be found that Seminole Lane or Wichita Lane can be closed. He would like to have Wichita Lane open as a thru street and it will only cost the Parish Asphalt. To open Seminole Lane, the only thing that needs to be done is move the concrete barriers. In 2002, the Parish Ordinance states a road in a subdivision cannot end in a dead end, it has to have a Cul-de-sac. I feel we have wrong doing on two roads that are being blocked and I am here to try and get Seminole Lane and Wichita Lane open. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Tonight I was going to ask Garrett to research Wichita Lane. I did talk to Garrett about the other road that was blocked off with that cement barricade. It is a big cement barricade and I am not sure who holds the liability. If someone is driving down that road and they are not familiar with that road it can be an issue. Garrett did say that the court ruled and we have a 60 day limit to appeal." Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "It is 67 days and there was no appeal taken to the Judge's decision. When it comes to the barricade that was the subject to that lawsuit, the Judge made his decision and if it is removed, you can bet that the Ranch is ready to defend that legally. When it comes to the other barricade that was not a subject at issue in that lawsuit, it a misdemeanor to obstruct traffic on a public road. The Parish could remove that barrier." Mr. Carl Fontenot stated Judge Caswell was presented with documents that was not ever stamped or sealed or approved by the council. The only plat which says it a 5' x 50' reserve strip owned by the Parish Government and not intended for thru traffic. Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "I cannot go back into that lawsuit. There was seven days to file for a new trial and sixty days to appeal it and none of those things were done. We have something to work with the barrier that was not subject to that lawsuit." Mr. Fontenot stated his concerns for opening the road. He said that it is an easy access to his home and over 250 constituents that live in that area would have an easy exit if the Pipe line Company that is housed in that area would rupture. Public Works Chairman, Jimmie Edwards asked Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain to looking into this matter and get back with Mr. Fontenot. Councilman Timmy Lejeune suggest getting the Ordinance for the creation of that whole property on both sides of the fence and track it all the way down until today to see where it feel from the cracks.

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday May 19th, 2021** authorizing the research of the development of the Ordinance for Seminole Lane and Wichita Lane. On roll call vote: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

5. Public Works Report:

a. **Update on Adjudicated Property in the Parish.**

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Each member should have a copy of the latest version of the Adjudicated Property List. Enclosed is the procedures to buy adjudicated property. This will be issued out to the public so they can follow the best procedure to buy adjudicated property. One thing we are doing different is whenever a person wants to buy property we will bring that description to the council and we will publicize it with the intent to sell. That will start the process of selling the property. We will publicize it again with the bid and public notice and the highest bidder in line to buy the property. We are getting a lot of people who are interested in buying adjudicated property. We started cleaning some of the properties and they are the first ones that the people are inquiring about. We cleaned up two properties in Sunset and one property in Port Barre. Whatever it cost us to clean up the property, that will be the minimum bid that we are requesting to get our money back. We will place a list of adjudicated property on our website so anyone can print out the list. This is a start in the right direction of selling property.”

b. **Update on Road Work throughout the Parish.**

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “In your pack, you have a copy of the Smooth Ride Home Program. You have a recommendation to award the contract of \$1,414,762.30 to Prairie Contractors, LLC to repair Beverly Road, Moreau Road and Dry Bayou Road. We will do the work in Phases as the money is available. According to the Engineers, we will have about \$300,000.00 of expenses that are not needed so we won’t use it. I am asking the council to bring this to the full for approval.

c. **Update on Phase 5 of the Smooth Ride Home.**

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday May 19th, 2021** authorizing the Parish President to sign the contract between the St. Landry Parish Government and Prairie Contractors, LLC for Phase 5 Road Improvements to Beverly Road, Moreau Road and Dry Bayou Road.

On roll call vote: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

d. **Teche-Ridge Subdivision.**

Mr. Jacob Jarrell Survey, Morgan Goudeau and Associates, Inc. addressed the council to answer any questions the council may have regarding the Preliminary Platt on the Teche-Ridge Subdivision. Councilman Harold Taylor questioned the three pipelines that crosses thru the Subdivision. He asked if a ‘*Buyer beware*’ note could be placed in the contract stating that there is a pipeline crossing on your property and a structure could not be built on it. The Engineer stated he would look at the structure and get back the council.

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday May 19th, 2021** authorizing the Engineer to place a note in the contract that informs the *Buyer to beware* of a Pipeline that crosses on your property and a Structure could not be built on it.

On roll call vote: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

e. **Debris pickup Contract.**

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We did a bid. It is a 90-10 Split. 90% is paid by FEMA and 10% is paid by Parish Government. This goes into effect for the next three years. Morgan and Morgan Land Preparation, LLC picked up the debris from the last hurricane. In the event of another storm they will come and pick up the debris as soon as the debris is ready to be picked up. Morgan and Morgan Land Preparation, LLC was the lowest bidder and I am asking the council to approve the contract for Disaster Recovery Debris Management and Removal Service.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned the Parish President about the amount of time it would take for all the debris to be picked up in the parish.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "They did not give me a time frame. But once the contract is signed, they are ready to begin."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned the amount the Parish Government would have to pay from the 10% split with FEMA. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I would like to say about \$150,000.00 would be our share." Councilman Timmy Lejeune asked the Parish President to try and get some assistance from Solid Waste to pay some of our 10% share. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated he will definitely ask Solid Waste for assistance.

Councilman Coby Clavier informed the Parish President of a large pile of debris that needs to be picked up but the grappler truck could not reach the debris to get it picked up. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated this company, Morgan and Morgan Land Preparation, LLC will be able to pick up the debris. They have available equipment. He suggested Councilman Coby Clavier to give him the address of the debris that needs to be pick up.

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry informed the Parish President of a lengthy list of places where debris needs to be pick up. She stated she has informed Public Works of the list. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated they have the list.

Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned the Parish President about a Parish Employee that is familiar with all the roads in the parish. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We will go with the list of roads that is called in first. We also have two employees that are out right now that are pen pointing the areas that needs debris to be picked up." Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned if Solid Waste is still picking up debris. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I don't think so."

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly for forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday May 19th, 2021** authorizing the Parish President to sign the Agreement for Disaster Recovery Debris Management and Removal Services between the St. Landry Parish Government and Morgan and Morgan Land Preparation, LLC.

On roll call vote: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

f. Debris Monitoring Contract.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Thompson Consulting Services, LLC is based out of Florida and they were the lowest bidder for Debris Monitoring. The Debris is picked up by the contractor and Thompson Consulting Services, LLC knows what is regulated and what is negative. That is how they get paid based off of the amount of yards for the pickup.

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry for forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday May 19th, 2021** authorizing the Parish President to sign the contract between the St. Landry Parish Government and Thompson Consulting Services, LLC.

On roll call vote: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to accept the Public Works Report.

On roll call vote: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion carried.

6. Forward all applications received for three appointments to Bellevue & Coulee Crouche Gravity Drainage District No. 20 for a four year term. (05-02-2021 – 05-02-2025).

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday May 19th, 2021** all applications received for two appointments to Ward Two Gravity Drainage District No. 1. (05-02-2021 – 05-02-2025).

On roll call vote: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

7. **Forward all applications received for two appointments to Fire District No. 2 for a two year term. (05-15-2021 – 05-15-2023).**
A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Gil Savoy to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday May 19th, 2021** all applications received for two appointments to Fire District No. 2 for a two year term. (05-15-2021 – 05-15-2023).
On roll call vote: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier.
ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.
Motion forwarded.

8. **Forward all applications received for one appointment to Public Works Commission District Six for a four year term. (05-17-2021 – 05-17-2025).**
A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday May 19th, 2021** all applications received for one appointment to Public Works Commission District Six for a four year term. (05-17-2021 – 05-17-2025).
On roll call vote: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier.
ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.
Motion forwarded.

9. **Discussion of a building for Fire District No. 7. Morrow Area. (Councilman Harold Taylor.)**
Councilman Harold Taylor stated he will yield to our Parish President who negotiated this application. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Fire District No. 7’s property is owned by the St. Landry Parish Police Jury. We did not buy it, it was bought thru Road District No. 5 a long time ago. They want the property to be donated back to Fire District No. 7. We don’t want the property and we don’t want the building because it is more of a Liability on us. My question is, should we do it by Ordinance or Resolution.” Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “It would be an Intergovernmental Agreement because it is a donation Conveyance of ownership from Parish Government to Fire District No. 7. It will be a Resolution where the council authorizes the sale to take place and finally if the council passes it, it will be a Conveyance donation from Parish Government to Fire District No. 7. The council can go with an Ordinance if they want but usually you all sell property with a Resolution.” Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We just want to give it to them. It is their property, they did everything with district money in their district.”
A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday May 19th, 2021** authorizing the Parish President to sign the Conveyance of ownership of the land to Fire District 7.
On roll call vote: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier.
ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.
Motion forwarded.

10. **Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for five appointments to the St. Landry Gravity Drainage District No. 14 for a four year term. (06-21-2021 – 06-21-2025).**
A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday May 19th, 2021** authorizing the Council Clerk to advertise for five appointments to the St. Landry Gravity Drainage District No. 14 for a four year term. (06-21-2021 - 06-21-2025).
On roll call vote: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier.
ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.
Motion forwarded.

11. **Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to the Lawtell Water District No. 1 for a three year term. (06-21-2021 – 06-21-2024).**
A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday May 19th, 2021** authorizing the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to the Lawtell Water District No. 1 for a three year term. (06-21-2021 - 06-21-2024).
On roll call vote: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier.
ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.
Motion forwarded.

12. Discuss the Storm Drains in the Royal Garden Subdivision. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "There are some storm drains that were placed in the Royal Garden Subdivision in the 1950's. I am asking that we give Morgan Goudeau & Associates permission to do the study on those storm drains to see how much it would cost to repair them. I will ask that some of the funding that will be coming into the parish be used to repair these storm drains. Sinkholes are beginning to appear in the back yards of the constituents."

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday May 19th, 2021** to authorize Morgan Goudeau & Associates, Inc. to do a Survey on the Storm Drains in the Royal Garden Subdivision.

On roll call vote: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

13. Discuss the speed limit on Country Ridge Road. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I would like to withdraw this item. The Sheriff has advised that he would like to leave it like it is."

14. Discuss replacement of a Culvert on Tillou Andrus Drive. Cost to be paid between St. Landry Parish Government and Ward 1 South Gravity Drainage District No. 1. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Ward 1 South Gravity Drainage District No. 1 would like to change the Culverts under the roadway. They want to do it on a 50/50 basis where Parish Government pays ½ and they would pay ½. It is looking at about \$10,000.00. Our share would be \$5,000.00 which would be paid out of Road District Fund 42." Parish President Jessie Bellard stated and Intergovernmental Agreement will be need to complete the work.

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday May 19th, 2021** authorizing the Parish President to sign an **Intergovernmental Agreement** between the St. Landry Parish Government and Ward 1 South Gravity Drainage District No. 1 to replace the Culverts under the Roadway on Tillou Andrus Drive and split the cost. Funding for the St. Landry Parish Government Cost will come from Road District Fund 42.

On roll call vote: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

15. Update on Grant Road for damage done by a Utility Company back 8 or 10 months ago. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Entergy Electrical Company did some damage to Grant Road when Mr. Russell Schexnider was employed here. Public Works have some records of the damage. Mr. Leger taught they has some photos of the damage but they cannot find the photos. They have damaged the road which was just overlaid. Mr. Leger has the list of all the people who has to be contacted. I am asking that our Legal Counsel get with the Public Works Department and do the research and take the procedures that are available to get the estimates to get the road repaired." Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We are not ready for that. We have already make contact with them and we have been talking to them. When they get finished doing their work then we will get to that step." Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated he has a property owner that lives in that area and he is concerned and he asked the Parish President to stay on top of the matter. Councilman Alvin Stelly questioned an Ordinance that states if someone tear up the road they are responsible to repair it. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Yes Sir. Those who come and get a permit, we can follow up to see if they did any damage to the road, in this case they did not get a permit but we are on top of it. Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Mr. President, you mentioned, if they don't get a permit there is some chance that they may slip thru the crack and no control of them paying to repair the road. Is there any way if they don't apply for a permit and we catch them, we can fine them \$5,000.00 plus the damage. Can we make an Ordinance to that effect?" Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "You all can do anything you all want to do, I would love for you all to do something like that. Right now, people are coming into Mrs. Mildred's District and Mrs. Nancy's District and they are doing the same thing with CLECO. Again, if we don't know that they are doing it, then we cannot do anything about it."

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Gil Savoy to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday May 19th, 2021** authorizing Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain to create an Ordinance that will fine anyone that damage the Parish Roads. On roll call vote: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded

16. Discuss adding Grant Road on the list of debris pick up from beginning of the gravel section to the end. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated this item was discussed earlier in the meeting. Mr. Bellard will add Grant Road to the list of Debris Pick.

17. Forward to full council a request for Introduction of Ordinance No. 2021-003.

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ST. LANDRY PARISH ORDINANCE SECTION 36-135 WHICH IS IN ARTICLE VI OF CHAPTER 36 OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES.

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., asked Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain to give more clarity on this Ordinance. Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "There is an Ordinance which requires First Responder Emergency Personnel to give their consent before a Speed Bump can be installed. This Ordinance 2021-003 will repeal that Ordinance so we will no longer be required to get the consent of First Responder Emergency Personnel before we install a Speed Bump in St. Landry Parish. Councilman Jerry Red Jr., questioned if this is pertaining to Charles Burr Lane. Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated this Ordinance will apply to any road that is introduced. Once you amend the Ordinance it opens it up to the whole parish regarding speed bumps. Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain regarding the First Responders concerns about Speed Bumps. Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "One of the things that the Ordinance does is, it is raising the approval rating from 60% to 75%. Speed Bumps slows down traffic to prevent people from being injured."

18. Forward to full council a request for Introduction of Ordinance No. 2021-004.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. LANDRY PARISH ORDINANCE SECTION 36-136 WHICH IS AN ARTICLE VI OF CHAPTER 36 OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES.

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "There is an Ordinance which has a requirements that has to be met before a Speed Bump can be installed. One of the requirement is that 60% or more of the people who live on that road have to agree to the Speed Bump being installed. Ordinance No. 2021-005 amends that Ordinance to state that is has to be 75% or more of the people that lives on that road have to consent to installing the speed bump before a speed bump can be installed on that road."

19. Forward to full council a request for Introduction of Ordinance No. 2021-005.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. LANDRY PARISH ORDINANCE SECTION 36-132 WHICH IS IN ARTICLE VI OF CHAPTER 36 OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES.

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Ordinance No. 2021-005 clarifies and streamlines the language in the Speed Bump Ordinance. A Notice of a Public Hearing is stated to the people on that public road where the Speed Bumps will be installed. This hearing is required to be had before that Ordinance is passed to install the Speed Bumps.

20. Forward to full council a request for Introduction of Ordinance No. 2021-006.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. LANDRY PARISH ORDINANCE SECTION 28-11 WHICH IN ARTICLE I OF CHAPTER 28 OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES.

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Ordinance No. 2021-006 amends Ordinance Section 28-11 so that the Parish President can declare by Executive Order there is a Flood Event. When there is a Flood Event in St. Landry Parish, it can impose on a No Wake Ordinance during the Flood Event and the duration of that No-Wake Ordinance will be stated in the Executive Order until the Parish President release that No-Wake requirement." Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "This was asked by the Sheriff's office and the Wild Life and

Fisheries. When the water gets high on some of these Bayou's, people fly buy with their boats and the water goes into their camp. This Ordinance will help us stop that problem.” Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “This Ordinance is very specific. It has to do with No Wake Zones in the Parish. This will amend the Ordinance to install a provision in the Ordinance when we have a Flood Event in the Parish, the Parish President can temporarily, by Executive Order impose a No-Wake requirement so that they won't cause Wake on people's property because we have a Flood Event in the Parish.” Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “There are certain areas that have No Wake Zone now. This Ordinance is used in case of a Flood Event.”

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

Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “Mr. Bellard, a young lady that stays at 830 Bellridge Road, just off of HWY 167 by Prayer House Road and Bernard Road. She stated on the corner of Bellridge and Bernard, the pavement stops. She would like to know why the entire road was not paved. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated he will have to review what Phase that road repair was in. He stated as the funding comes available, we can do it. Councilwoman Mildred Thierry also informed the Parish President about the pavement that was incomplete on Malveaux Road, Bellridge Road and Prayerhouse Road.

22. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to adjourn the Public Works Committee Meeting.

On roll call vote: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier.

ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion carried.

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