

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5th, 2022
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Chairman Wayne Ardoin called the Administrative/Finance Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation was said earlier in the meeting.
3. **Roll Call:** Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier and Timmy Lejeune. **Ex-Officio** Dexter Brown. **ABSENT:** None.
4. Person to address the Committee:

Ms. Alexis Thomas addressed the council regarding the Barricade in Shawnee Hills Subdivision. She stated, “Good evening my name is Alexis Thomas. My family purchased a home in Shawnee Hills about three years ago. I am here today to speak to you about the event that happened at my home on the night of New Year’s Eve and to seek a resolution to this matter. After working the night shift as a nurse, I was awoken by the scream of my daughter and my husband. They were frantic because my husband’s truck was in flames in our driveway. I walked out to see my neighbor, who is a disabled veteran with a garden hose frantically trying to stop the fire from spreading to his home and our home as well. By that time my husband had already contacted the fire department. I could hear the sirens but the response was delayed because of a certain structure in the road. I was then told by the Sheriff Deputy on scene who would have to leave out of our neighborhood to go to the neighboring neighborhood to escort the fire department to my home. This took more than ten minutes for them to leave out of my neighborhood to go to the neighboring neighborhood to get the fire truck. Please try to put yourself in my position, just imagine your home or your neighbor’s home at risk for burning down and a public road to get access to your home is barricaded. I don’t know which emotion have more control, fear or anger. Fear that my neighbor and I would lose everything that we have worked so hard for and anger that is absolutely insane for someone to barricade a public road. My question is, why a private citizen is allowed to do this? Don’t we elect officials to protect us from rouge citizens? There have been a lot of talk about the barricade actually go there. When the subdivision were created, tax payers money was used to fund the public road for that subdivision. Now they have put a barricade on a public road essentially making it a private road. The barricade poses a threat to public safety. I feel that there is a resolution to this problem. The parish have the power to buy back part of the road that is claimed to be private to protect the health and safety of residence of the Shawnee Hills Subdivision.”

Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “Ms. Thomas, we have been trying to resolve that matter for many years regarding that barricade that is across the road. Unfortunately our prayers go out to you and your family regarding the truck. Thankfully nothing else drastically happened. Mr. Bellard, our Parish President has been adamantly working on trying to resolve that matter.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I am sorry for the loss of your vehicle and you had to have that experience. I am glad to see that everyone is o.k.”

Ms. Alexis Thomas stated, “I understand that but so much more can happen. Every day I put my life at risk taking care of the public and who is helping me. That is not fair, it is really not fair. It has been so much talk around this piece of property that is was given away by a Judge. How was a Judge allowed to give away public property that is owned by the Parish? Can anyone explain how a judge can just give away anything? That means he can give away our homes, our jobs and he has the right to do that.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The issue the council is dealing with now has been dealt with in the past. I have copies that was made today on the history from the start to where we are at now. I come from the fire service and I know what a minute is and I know what a minute can do to save somebody’s live. I am not doubting that at all. At the end of the day, this council acted in 2017 to get a declaratory on this very issue to get it

resolved. The Judge heard all of the matters in place and the Judge ruled that that piece of property is considered a common property that is owned by the Ranch Subdivision. Parish Government does not own that road. Unless a judge tells us anything different, we have to stick and honor what the judge has ruled.”

Ms. Alexis Thomas stated, “I get what you are saying but, when all this happened, the court hearing and stuff, my neighbors were not even allowed to go into the courtroom to defend themselves. How is that right?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I am not sure about all of those particular issues.

Ms. Alexis Thomas stated, “It happened, everybody knows it happened.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So the issue that was done, the Parish Council asked the Parish President at that time who was Mr. Bill Fontenot to get a declaratory judgement. At that time the attorney on record was Chad Pitre. He went in front of a judge along with the lawyers from the Ranch Subdivision. A decision was made in that room because two parties were present, the Parish and the owners of the Ranch Subdivision. Everything that is on record here has been given to the judge at that hearing. He made a decision based off the information. I sympathize with you all about that but it is out of our hands, it is out of the Parish President’s hands and out to the Parish Council’s hand when a Judge rules. If the parish council makes a motion and does something and no court rules on it then the parish council can come back and charge that motion. This is a judge.”

Ms. Alexis Thomas stated, “I understand what you are saying, what does it have to take for someone to lose their life. Obviously emergency personnel was led to that barricade, why is that? Seconds matter when a life is in danger, I know you understand that.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I agree with that but this is what we are doing and this is what we are doing today. We are going to send letters to every emergency vehicle that responds in that area to make sure that they are aware of this barricade. They should have been aware of this already but we will make sure of it. We will make sure and put some signs up to make sure that everybody knows so they don’t run into the barricade.”

Ms. Alex Thomas stated, “So it takes for this to happen for something to be done?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I was advised by our attorney, maybe Garrett can step in, the parties that are in the subdivision can file a suit like they want but we are out of it cause of council asked for a declaratory judgement. The council received the declaratory judgement and it was ruled on. Unless Garret has something further to add.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Do you have a question for me? Let me just state, one thing that can and will be done is the Parish Government will send letters to all the first responders to let them know how to get to your house very quickly. That is one thing that can and will be done. If there is anything that this council can do, anything to help you, they will do it. They can’t do anything about a judgement signed by a district court judge which decided that the road is to be closed. If this council can do anything to help you, I assure you they will.

Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “Ms. Thomas, it would be a good idea for you as a homeowner and all the other homeowners in that subdivision, both subdivisions, to contact the Attorney General’s Office, Mr. Jeff Landry and see if they can bring this matter into light. See if they can help you out in that situation.”

Mr. Carl Fontenot addressed the council regarding Seminole Lane. He stated, “I said I was going to stay out of this because I fought this since 2009. I understand what everybody is saying. I understand the Judge Caswell thing that Jessie got. I got the original transcript from that court hearing. What he is showing us now was not on that transcript. O.K. this came up, not saying it is not right, but it came up, but getting back to this road and who owns that 29-30’. Our attorney right here has a plat from 2005 which it was September when this council at the time accepted the roads of Shawnee Farms Phase 2 and Phase 3. Seminole Lane goes all the way to River Birch. In 2006 when they built Shawnee Hills, where I live, that plat show it stopping at that 5’ x 50’ line that the Parish owns, owns by the Parish Government. Everybody is telling me that they don’t own that, well it is in the notes. Mr. Garrett read it to me today. In 2007 the Ranch came along. They renamed Seminole Lane and Rodeo Drive. They named them those names. That is still fine, call it what you want, if you measure from where Lamar Lane starts according to the 2007 Plat to that 5’ mark, that is it. There is no 29 point whatever feet that is owned that is so said a horse trail. Robert Wolf, I can’t get the man to talk to me now, but Robert Wolf told me he told Larry Leger and Don Menard, they were concerned, o.k., there is a horse trail, we make to make that private because the horses are passing. Robert Wolf said, in joking, you all better put a stop sign for those horses because that is a parish road. The Parish Road, Seminole Lane was developed and accepted by the council before Shawnee Hills or the Ranch was

developed. Now we are just going to give 30 feet to somebody else. I know you all are tired of hearing me say it or you all had a meeting that you all don't want to hear this anymore but this is a serious matter, very serious. The first Deputy that came went there because it was not his district but it was New Year's Eve and they were so busy. There were two Deputies like she said, one had to leave to go escort five truck back around twice, a 25 minute delay. Last night somewhere here in Opelousas, an 11 or 12 year old child burned and died. Do you all want that on your conscience? I understand and it has been said, we don't want that road open because 'rift-rafts' will be coming in thru here. You may be pay a little more taxes dollars than me because I don't make the money that you all make, but I still pay for that road. That is just my taught on it. This gentlemen have a plat, and I am the one that brought that plat, that nobody in the parish could not find it. I dug around and dug around today and I found it at Morgan Goudeau and Associates. I called Mr. Garett and he said, yes, I have it right here. That is showing that you all as Parish Government just decided, well we don't want that 30' anymore, let's give it away. That Plat was not brought to Judge Caswell. If I am trying to do something in my favor and I want to be crooked about it, I will bring him what I want him to see. That is exactly what happened. It is on you all. You all make the decisions. Evidently some of you all, the ones that have been here the longest, knows that is wrong. Twice for sure, you all voted the majority to remove that barricade, twice the parish president shot it down. The last one told me that it is just a suggestion, I make the final answer. So we are wasting 13 salaries. I am glad that you all are getting paid, I know that it is not a lot for what you all have to deal with, but still, that is 13 salaries we are wasting if your word does not count. Twice, it is in record, I have it in my truck that you all voted to remove that barricade. The barricade is not even for the parish. Do any of you all know if St. Landry Parish owns concrete barricades that is along the state highways? That is what is there. I know a few of you all have been there to see it. That barricade is not even for the parish. The Attorney General's office was contacted. Those barricades were brought up, a lot of things were brought up. There is an attorney that is supposed to be calling about this situation. I am not blaming this man, he inherited a bad problem. This man inherited a lot. I know you all tried to do what is right, twice for sure. You got your hands slapped if that is how it operates, that is how it is. I just know if you want to be truthful, 2005, I think it was September 17, when Bob Sullivan came to the council and asked for the Roads for Phase 2 and 3, can you accept them. The council said, we accept them. That man has the plat, I wish you all would look at it, because I was told that is no such plat.

Today I asked him, I know Seminole Lane starts on the south end at Wichita which is where I live. Where does it shows that it goes? He followed it and said it goes to River Birch which comes off of Nap Lane. That part there, I rest my case, if you all can't see that, I know Ray Charles can see that.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "I do understand that you are questioning about those concrete barricades. Does anybody know where they came from? I mean you all live right next door."

Mr. Carl Fontenot stated, "That is what I wanted to ask you. My neighbor that lives next to it said at 4:00 a.m. on a Sunday morning they heard beep-beep alarms. They looked outside and there were some equipment that St. Landry Parish Government does not own. They were setting concrete barrier down at 4:00 a.m. on a Sunday morning."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Was there a logo or something with indications?"

Mr. Carl Fontenot sated, "I cannot say because I did not see it. I have asked you to find out. Somebody knows who put it down. Bill Fontenot, I aggravated him for two month. I have text messages printed. He denied for two months saying I don't know where it is at but I will be sure to find out. I even got a text message saying that we will be removing that fence, until you see it gone or wait until next Tuesday, don't say anything to anyone. I got that in a text message. He was going to go and consult with the other side first then come back and say maybe it is o.k. From May to July, I aggravated him so much, he admitted, I authorized them barricades. That holds the parish liable. I think so, but I am not an attorney, I am just a poor old working man."

Chairman Dexter Brown stated, "Mr. Carl, you know I have been on you all side for 16 years. I want the right thing. It is a safety hazard having that barricade there. Just like I told Ms. Thomas about the Attorney General. You said that someone from the Attorney General's Office will contact us, we just want the situation resolved.

I want to thank you for your time and effort and we will try our best to get this matter resolved."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Mr. Garrett, Mr. Fontenot state you read Mr. Fontenot something from 2005, is that correct?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “We have a plat here from 2005.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “That is what I am asking, did you read it to him today?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “I just gave it to him today. I could not read it to him, it was during the meeting.”

Mr. Carl Fontenot stated, “On the phone I told you that it started on the south end, where does it show that it goes. You stated it goes to River Birch which comes off of Nap Lane was your words, am I lying?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Right, that is the track that I took in my car yesterday to go there. Nap Lane, River Birch Road, I got to Seminole Lane and drove to the Barrier. Right on the side of the barrier is the right of way for the Parish Government on this plat and on this plat is the Judges Judgement. On the other side of the barrier is a private strip owned by the private company.”

Mr. Carl Fontenot stated, “But, does that Plat shows it was owned by a private company in 2005. I wish you all would look at this plat if you all have never seen it. That is the original.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “The first thing to do is file a lawsuit to go to court which was done and the judge has the authority to render a judgement.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “That was my reason for asking you that question. I asked the question because this council did everything within our power to make it right for the people in Shawnee Farms as well as the Ranch. We voted unanimously for it to go to court and get a declaratory judgement, 12-0 and the judge came back with a ruling and anything else that has to be done it would have to be done by the people. I am not saying anything that the council is trying to stop you all from doing anything, but anything that has to be done, it would have to be done by the people. That is all I am saying. We are going to do everything within our power to make it right for you as well as everyone else.”

Mr. Carl Fontenot stated, “Can I ask you a question Mr. Red? Were you here in 2005.

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “No I was not.”

Mr. Carl Fontenot stated, “Have you ever seen this plat which is the original plat?”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “I did not see that plat.”

Mr. Carl Fontenot stated, “The Judge did not see it either.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “That is why I asked the question. I am asking the question from what you said Mr. Duplechain had given you.”

Mr. Carl Fontenot stated, “His words were, it goes all the way to River Birch which ties into Nap Lane.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “The problem I have with this whole situation is a road that was declared closed with no Cul-De-Sac. Any road that is closed should have a Cul-De-Sac. That is where the problem lies.”

Mr. Carl Fontenot stated, “The problem I see is that we are giving away 29 feet of property.” I have a question for Mr. Bellard. I am asking you, we all know in here that Judge Caswell never saw this plat. He was brought stuff from 2006 on up. This is the original from the night of the meeting with the minutes matching this plat. Did you look at it? Did you see Seminole Lane going to River Birch?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I did see it. It is stamped and approved by the council in September of 2005. According to the records on here, I don’t believe that map was the one that was given to the judge.”

Mr. Carl Fontenot stated, “Could you give this map to Judge Caswell?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I can, yes, I want to make sure that we understand that the judge ruled from what was presented in front of him. If there is new evidence to bring to light that is a whole different ball game.”

Mr. Carl Fontenot stated, “Before the Parish President told me that they have the final say, so it did not matter what they said. I am asking you, with the authority that you have, you can stop this from happening because that is your authority. Get this stuff to judge Caswell or that 5 x 50’ reserve strip that is for the parish, I am not going to say that word right but I think it is expropriation. All you all have to do is vote and take that back and that barricade needs to go to start with. You move that and vote to re-open that 5’ and everybody goes on about their way. If not, it is fixing to cost you all three Cul-De-Sac.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “In light of the information that has been brought to our attention about the road, can you advise Mr. Fontenot and Ms. Thomas on what is the next step that they need to take to have this resolved.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “I will say two things and I hope that it is helpful. These property matters are not simple and easy. That is why it ended up in court in front of a judge where it was suppose end up. I would advise that they consult their own attorney, their attorney who could advise them. The second thing that I will say is that, in the beginning the developer owns all the land. After it is developed, they sell it off one piece at a time. When it gets to the end, the developer can keep some of it, this lot, that lot, 29’ strip or whatever it is. When the developer keeps it, they are the owner, they keep it. It happens with Town Houses all the time. They will keep a common ground. It is called the Common Ground. In this case the ruling was that this developer kept the 29.5’ strip. It was not taken and given to the developer, they kept it, which happens. The developer will keep something for themselves so they can use it for the common good of whatever they want to use it far. That is how the judge ruled in this case that this 29’ strip remained with the developer, St. Landry Investments. That is how it happened. That is how they ended up with it.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “What is the next step for these citizens?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “The only way to get a ruling from a judge is to file a lawsuit. If you file a lawsuit on this barricading strip, it is Race Judicata. It will be thrown out of court because it has already been decided and no appeal was taken.”

Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “Mr. Duplechain, when we took all those roads into the parish system, all those roads are public. When they tried to put a gate in the front of the Ranch Subdivision, we advised them, it they were going to make that a private subdivision those roads could be no longer public. Basically the gates were taken down. In that sense, all those old roads in Shawnee Farms, Shawnee Hills and the Ranch were all public and everybody had thru traffic.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “Mr. Garrett, the only way you could bring something back to court is if you have new evidence, is that correct?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “You can ask for a new trial seven days after the judge renders judgement in Civil Court. If you talk about Criminal Court, that is a different story when new evidence comes back, you can go back to criminal court and have the person released from incarceration. This is Civil Court, this is a civil matter.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “My point that I am making, if this 2005 information that they have was not presented to the judge, this becomes new evidence and that road can be open, is that correct?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “If the judge did not see it, then it is something that the judge did not see. I can not.....”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “Is that something that they could bring in their case.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Certainly, they can hire a lawyer to do that. The only problem is, I cannot determine that that will change the judges’ mind. That would be very misleading if I was to say that.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “I am just asking if there is new evidence that the judge did not see that it could have the road open and the barricade would have to be removed. I think this is grounds for them to go for that.”

Mr. Albert Gros addressed the council regarding the Barricades in the Ranch Subdivision. He stated, “Thank you for hearing this yet again. We find ourselves after a decision re-discussing a re-discussed re-issue once again. I want to be here for clarification. I find myself probably one of the most educated because I have made it a personal issue. I think Mr. Carl Fontenot is probably maybe a little more educated on some of the issues then I am because he has been there longer. I purchased my property in 2009. Was very privy to a lot of the issues because I was one of the first land owners in the Ranch. In being so, I was interested at one point purchasing the subdivision so it made it a personal interest of mine to know the details laid into the development. I just want to give my personal opinion. Some of this I probably speak for the subdivision but most of this I am speaking from my own point of view. That plat from 2005 is right her. I have been having it for a long time. I had it available and presentable to the council the last time we had this meeting. In it as Mr. Fontenot spoke, there is a road, continuous that goes from River Birch all the way down to Wichita. It is called Seminole Lane. This plat was done on June 8, 2005. This was presented initially as a plan. Mr. Calvin Leger’s name is on here. It is a multi-stage development for Shawnee, Shawnee Farms and Shawnee Hills. At this point Christian Point was part of a future endeavor including and so was the area that is now the Ranch. Everybody wants to go back and revert to this original plat. In doing so, I warned Mr. Fontenot that there are property line changes that occur in Shawnee Hills when you do that. There were property lines that are different on this plat then the current property lines that

exist in Shawnee Hills now. In going back to this original plat, he will have to argue with some of his neighbors about giving up some of their property. That is not very realistic. I think this issue is irrelevant about the plat from 2005 because here, what was also presented at the meeting, ACT-961423, I quoted it in the last meeting. Those revision in this plat was also presented in the notes and have documentation from the parish and the letter to Mr. Calvin Leger. So before we get angry at the council, before we get angry at owners of the Ranch, before we get angry at residence of the Ranch, this issue should be taken up with Mr. Calvin Leger who was the developer of Shawnee Hills. He is the one that made the request and made the revision. Not anybody from our side, it was from their side. The notes read, note number nine,

5 x 50' reserve strips shown are owned by St. Landry Parish Government for the purpose of intentionally prohibiting thru traffic. This is available again if you guys need copies. In this letter also presented from Aucoin and Associates to Ms. Linda LaFleur, St. Landry Parish Government regarding Mr. Calvin Leger's request for the modifications that appear in this plat. Number 2, the plat indicates a 5' x 50' reserve strip on the west end of Wichita Lane and North end of Seminole Lane. We have discussed the Wichita Road as well. Mr. Robert Wolf indicated the purpose of the privately reserved strips was to prevent connection of the subject lane with roadways and the adjoining Ranch Subdivision. Recommends a note be made on the plat ownership and intention 5' x 50 reserve strips presented on the plat accepted and voted by this council. This is not an issue of blocking a public roadway. We well know developers put roadways in place and then subsequently those roads are taken over by Parish Government. They are Parish Roads and that parish road continues to intentionally prohibit thru traffic as passed by acceptance of the plat with the notes accepted and voted on by the council. These barricades, they are not evil. They were set as a distinct marker between two subdivisions to allow Shawnee Farms and Shawnee Hills to be distinctly separate from a new subdivision project which was the Ranch. This new subdivision project was intentionally separate from the other two as per the land owner, the developer that brought the land. I sympathize incredibly, I am a medical provider myself and I sympathize with Ms. Thomas and her family. When it was recognized from our subdivision as we were trying to celebrate the New Year coming that there was a fire, my neighbors can attest, I personally left the fence, ran to the location of the fire to ask if everyone was okay. Does it make me a hero? Does it make me anything but a concerned neighbor? Because that is what we are, we are neighbors. I have concern for everyone in my immediate subdivision, my immediate next door subdivision and the people that live on the next road because that is what we are, we are all neighbors. This is not about a barricade. This is about educating our emergency response teams to be available and provide services in the quickest safest manner. Thank you."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "I have some people that brought it to my attention that they tried to file an appeal with the court and are going to have to deal with the Attorney General's Office on that. They tried to file an appeal at the time and within due time and they were refused that right. I asked them to turn it over to the Attorney General's Office. I don't know how all of that will come out but I was asked to present this to everyone tonight. I am just spreading the information that was provided to me."

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mr. Gros, could you please give our clerk a copy of what you brought up tonight."

5. Parish President & Finance Report:

- **Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "I have a lot of stuff on the Parish President's Report that I want to bring up. It is in you all packet. First is the Airport Lease for Mr. Lloyd Ardoin. He is buying the hangar that was owned by Mr. Lewis Vivianna Family. They had a hangar at the airport. Since he passed away the family wants to sell it. Lloyd is buying the hangar from the Vivianna Properties. He wants to lease that hangar as per the lease agreement in the Hangar Rentals. That will be on Lot 3 of Plat 3 North of Hangar Road."

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 19th, 2022** to authorize the Parish President to sign the Lease Agreement between the St. Landry Parish Airport and Mr. Lloyd Ardoin, and/or Laurie Ardoin.

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.

- **Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “Road District #5 is asking for another truck. We have one truck that is not running. It needs parts. It is truck No. 799. They are asking us to donate it to them like we did the other one. It is a Surplus.”

A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 19th, 2022** to authorize the Parish President to donate truck No. 799, a Parish Government Vehicle, to Road District #5. 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.

- **Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “The next item that I have is related to Adjudicated Properties in the Parish of St. Landry. It is dealing with people who actually rent the property that is adjudicated. I am asking that the council give us some kind of guidance on that thru legal advice or however. We send a letter to anyone that have property in the parish that is adjudicated to the parish and still having renters in their houses, we give them 30 days to either pay their taxes or evict them.”

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, “Would we do that by Ordinance Mr. Duplechain?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “We would either do that by a Resolution or a vote by the council to pass it to full council meeting. Rental property that has been adjudicated to the parish, is that what we are talking about?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “They have renters still living there and they are still paying rent to the landlord.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Correct.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “The landlord need to get right with it. You need to pass it to the full council and you can pass a Resolution at that time calling for action and our Chief Executive will take action. I will draw up the Resolution.”

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 19th, 2022** to authorize Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain to submit a Resolution authorizing the Parish President to evict Adjudicated Property Owners that have not paid their taxes but still have renters in their homes.

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.

- **Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “We also have a preliminary and Final Approval on 5.746 acres partition of 5 lots located on Desiree Road between Lawtell and Opelousas.

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin request that Mr. Jarrell be present.

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 19th, 2022** to authorize the Preliminary and Final approval on 5.746 acres partition of 5 lots located on Desiree Road between Lawtell and Opelousas. **Mr. William Jarrell will be contacted to address this matter.**

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.

- **Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “Sugar Cane Trucks. We have a major issue in our Parish with Sugar Cane Trucks tearing up our roads. I am suggesting that we write or re-write our ordinance when it is dealing with heavy loads to include Sugar Cane Trucks to come and get permits. Not to only get permits but if there is an out on a state right of way or state road to take that route, not take a parish road. It is breaking up our roads and they are not getting any permits from us. They are getting state permits and we don’t get anything. Most of the Sugar Cane trucks are not even coming from local farmers. I spoke with a couple of them. Pretty much, they don’t really care. If a Sugar Cane trucks will come into our parish with a one hundred-thousand pound load because the state allows them to do that, then they will pay. I am asking the council if we

can submit an ordinance to the full council and possibly amending our ordinance dealing with weight limits. We have it for Logging Trucks.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. will Sponsor the revised Ordinance for weight limits in the Parish.

No Action Taken.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Wild Flower Lane, there is a Junk Yard on Wild Flower Land. The owners of the property received three registered letters saying that they need to clean up their property. It has gotten worst. The owner of the property is Keith Johnson. 117 Wild Flower Lane, Opelousas, La. He goes by Johnson Auto by occupational, the purpose is retail service. Our Ordinance calls for Occupational Licenses for Junk Yards, Salvage Yards and Mechanic Shop. The Occupational License Office at the Sheriff’s Office was supposed to contact me to give approval. This was never approved by anyone in Parish Government. He is going by a Retail Service so he can get around the actual ordinance. I am asking the council for the full council meeting to give a registered letter to come to the full council meeting on this month to show cause why we should not pull his occupational license and close down this place. He is not listening to anything we do and it has been going on since before me.

Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “Mr. Bellard, is that about one quarter of a mile away from my house, around the corner. It is an iron sore 100%. A couple of months ago, he put a couple of pieces of tin headed east and west but it is not considered a fence. We need to do everything in our power to get that taken care of.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We have been trying to do everything in a reasonable fashion by Code Enforcement going over there and talking to him. I went out there a couple of times. It looks like he is not going to listen to what we need to do, so I think the next action is action by the council. If he does not listen to that then action by the court.”

A motion was made by Councilman Easton Shelvin, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 19th, 2022** to forward a letter to Mr. Keith Johnson and invite him to come to our next meeting to show cause why we should not pull his Occupational License for his business on Wild Flower Lane.

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. Contract between Christ Church and SLPG for Delta usage.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Christ Church for the Delta Usage is a one year contract that we renew every year. I just want to bring it up to you all for the renewal. Everything stays the same unless you all have any objections.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier, seconded by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 19th, 2022** to authorize the Parish President to sign the Lease of Property Agreement between the St. Landry Parish Government and Christ Church of Acadiana for \$800.00 per month rental for the Delta Grand usage.

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.

b. St. Landry Parish Government Honors and Recognizes I-49 Riders awarding four seniors Seth Lewis (Northwest High School), Alayla Reed (JS Clark), Amaya L Ifford (Opelousas High School), and Ivory Amos (Opelousas High School) in St. Landry Parish each a \$300 Scholarship on Saturday January 1st, 2022.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The I-49 Riders has awarded four seniors, Seth Lewis. North West High School, Alayla Reed, J.S. Clark High School, Amaya L. Ifford, Opelousas High School and Ivory Amos, Opelousas High School some Scholarships. I would like to do a Proclamation at the full council meeting for those achievements.”

A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 19th, 2022** to authorize the Parish President to present a Proclamation to four seniors for their achievements.

Seth Lewis	North West High School
Alayla Reed	Joseph S. Clark High School
Amaya L. Ifford	Opelousas High School
Ivory Amos	Opelousas High School

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.

- Finance Director Caryn Fulop** presented the council with the Financial Report. She stated, **General Fund**, \$5,145,148.39
 Expenditures: \$5,108,278.06
 Cash Balance: \$107,772.44 as of 12-31-2021.

Road and Bridge Fund:

Total Income: \$3,349,045.95
 Expenditures: \$3,890,092.42
 Cash Balance: \$123,096.74
 Fund Balance: \$333,621.48

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned Account 4100185 – Bond Proceeds.

Finance Director Caryn Fulop stated, That account has been there since the start of my employment.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Amanda Cain had put that in there as bond proceeds from borrowing money from that line of credit. We did not use that. We used the ARA money, the lost revenue side of it. That needs to be changed to the lost revenue of the ARA. Amanda had initially put that in there for Bond Proceeds but we did not need it.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “On the expense side of the council travel, we have sort of extended our budget didn’t we?” Wait, am I looking at the right one. I am sorry, it is the Office Expenses that have been exceeded by \$29,000.00. What is that all about?

Finance Director Caryn Fulop stated, “I think they bought some assets this year. So those will be moved to Capital Outlays.

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “May I make a suggestion. We can’t understand these finances getting them the day of the meeting, at the hour of the meeting. We need this in advance. Can we in the future get this information to the council in our packet 2-3 days before the meeting so we can scrutinize it?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The only problem with this is, the first week of the month happen this week.

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Well we should not be discussing it right now if we can’t get the information to look at it.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We can give you the information at the full council meeting, that way it will be more into the month.

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “The budget that you are submitting for 2021, amended budget for 2022, does it reflect these numbers?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Correct, yes.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “How can they, we are just getting this now.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We have an estimate like we talked about before.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “But this is not an estimate, this is actual.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Those are actual numbers that we have right here that we pulled today.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Are those same numbers in that budget that we are looking at?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Not every number will be the exact number, no, because we can’t.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Don’t you think it would be best if we had that to have a real budget so we would know what we are really looking at.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Whenever you are amending the budget, like we always do, normally you would do it in November to amend the numbers for the year. What I am saying is, it is impossible for us to give you December numbers in your packet for last week when they mailed them out because December was not over with. I can give you your numbers for the full council meeting and that way it will give you plenty of time to get stuff done in the first week and then mailed out

and then you can have it for the full council meeting. That is what we use to do years ago so we would not have these issues. That is always an issue for the first meeting of the month to have actual numbers from the previous month.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “At the top of this list, it says it is from January to October, is that just an oversight?”

Finance Director Caryn Fulop stated, “Yes.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “You see what I am saying, this is confusing. We need to be a little bit more aggressive about how we handle this.”

Finance Director Caryn Fulop stated, “We have not received all the bills for December yet either or the revenue that is coming for December because this is on the 5th day of January. As the month goes on we will receive more bills.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “I understand but on top of this list it says January thru October 2021. But now you are telling me it is December.”

Finance Director Caryn Fulop stated, “It is December, There is a templet that I use and I just drop the numbers into it. It was an oversight.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “I understand sweetheart, all I am saying is that we have to be more attentive to the details. Thank you.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “From this point on, this is how I am going to do it. You all will not receive numbers at the committee meeting. You all will receive numbers at the full council meeting. That way we won’t have the issues we are having tonight. It will give us more time.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “I would rather get it at the next committee meeting. If we had to take any action, we can do it in February.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So you would like for us to give you November numbers in January? I am trying to give you all numbers as close as we can not to have two months behind. We definitely can do the numbers and leave a month out. That is no problem and we can still keep it into the Committee but it won’t be the previous month, it will be the month prior.” We won’t have all the information for the previous month until towards the end of this month.

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Let’s go ahead and have it two months behind. We will see how that works.”

Finance Director Caryn Fulop continued with the Financial Report, she stated,

Health Unit Maintenance:

Total Revenue: \$1,771,752.54

Total Expenditures: \$1,824,521.15

Cash Balance: \$94,786.84

Fund Balance: \$1,819,542.37

Jail Maintenance Fund:

Total Income: \$720,457.16

Total Expenses: \$768,475.94

Cash Balance: \$99,087.09

Fund Balance: \$736,502.51

Road District 12 Ward 2 Maintenance

Total Income: \$284,072.55

Total Expenditures: \$322,336.00

Cash Balance: \$47,013.53

Fund Balance: \$302,333.86

Road District 1 of Ward 3 Maintenance

Total Revenue: \$376,628.29

Total Expenses: \$594,161.32

Cash Balance: \$21,365.46

Fund Balance: \$326,291.58

Road District 2 of Road District 11A Ward 1

Total Income: \$224,447.90

Total Expenditures: \$239,709.47

Cash Balance: \$55,275.02

Fund Balance: \$266,484.42

Sub Road District 1 Road District 3 Ward 1 Maintenance

Total Income: \$123,950.95

Total Expenditures: \$155,498.15

Cash Balance: \$6,481.49

Fund Balance: \$122,375.56

Sub Road 1 of Road 11A Maintenance:

Total Income: \$312,580.57

Total Expenditures: \$157,975.01

Cash Balance: \$298,436.10

Fund Balance: \$583,209.75

Airport Fund

Total Income: \$467,268.60

Total Expenses: \$468,699.53

Cash Balance: \$2,999.25

Fund Balance: -\$11,283.46

We just received \$33,000.00 today that has not been reflected on this December Statement.

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned: “Now we are in January, what is the Sheriff’s Office saying as far as property taxes being paid. Where would we be at, 60, 48 or 40% paid.”

Finance Director Caryn Fulop stated, “They have to submit it to us by the 10th, of every month of what they collected the prior month. We should be receiving a check soon for what they collected in December.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier to accept the Parish President and 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.

6. Discuss an Ordinance that will take the Video Poker Fund and mandate it to the Road and Bridge Fund.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “It was done by Resolution and it has not been done by Ordinance. I am asking Legal Counsel to do it by an Ordinance. Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain will provide the council with and Ordinance that will take the Video Poker Fund and mandate it to the Road and Bridge Fund. ***Councilman Timmy Lejeune will Sponsor the Ordinance.***

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain questioned? “The Video Poker Fund, where is it going now.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, The Video Poker Fund was going into the General Fund. The 2022 Budget is going to have it in the Road and Bridge.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “What we are going to do is, we will pass the ordinance for the Video Poker Fund to go to the road and Bridge Fund. Is there a current ordinance that has to be repealed that is sending the video poker fund somewhere now or is it just a Resolution.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “There is no current Ordinance that is dealing with Video Poker, it was always a Resolution that was passed years ago, but Mr. Lejeune wants to put it in an Ordinance form.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “O.K. we will have an Ordinance sending Video Poker Fund to Road and Bridge.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “How much money are we talking about Mr. Bellard?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “About \$550,000.00.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “To take the place of that in your General Fund, where will you find that money to put in your General Fund.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We have cut some stuff in General Fund. ARA have helped us with that this year. We have extra revenue coming in to take care of that.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. questioned if there would be a problem.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “As of right now, it will not be a problem because General Fund is going to be what it is. One of the biggest issues we have with the General Fund is all these mandates that come up. Video Poker is a General Fund Type source of Revenue but it was never dedicated to General Fund. It was always just used and it was taken from Road and Bridge and put in General Fund. I would like to keep it in road and Bridge and let General Fund survive on its own.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “We passed this Resolution, I will guess about 8 – 12 years ago. Mr. Fontenot politely took it from Road and Bridge and placed it in the General Fund without the consent of the Council. He just moved that money there and took it out of

Road and Bridge. So therefore what it will actually do for us, the Parish President will have to come to us and say, can I get this money back from Road and Bridge because I need it in the General Fund. At least we will know what is going on. I really would like to have it done by Ordinance.

No Action Taken.

7. Authorize Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign a Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act for 2021 Funds to the Thensted Center and Creole Heritage, Inc for \$5,000.00 each. A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday January 19th, 2022** authorizing the Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign a Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act for 2021 Funds to the Thensted Center and Creole Heritage, Inc for \$5,000.00 each.

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. Discuss any other business properly brought before this committee.
None.

9. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune 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**