

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022  
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

1. Madam Chairwoman Vivian Olivier called the Public Works Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation. (Councilwoman Nancy Carriere).
3. **Roll Call:**  
Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier.  
Ex-Officio Vivian Olivier.
4. Elect a Chairman.  
**Madam Chairwoman Vivian Olivier stated,** “Nominations for Chairman for the Public Works.”  
**Councilman Alvin Stelly stated,** “I nominate Coby Clavier for the Chairman of the Public Works Committee.”  
**Councilman Gil Savoy stated,** “Second.”  
**Councilman Jimmie Edwards stated,** “I want to nominate Dexter Brown.”  
**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated,** “Second.”  
**Madam Chairwoman Vivian Olivier stated,** “We have nominations for Dexter Brown and Coby Clavier.”  
**Councilman Dexter Brown stated,** “I move that the nominations be closed.”  
**Councilman Alvin Stelly stated,** “Second.”  
**Madam Chairwoman Vivian Olivier stated,** “The nominations are closed, now we are going to elect a Chairman. Roll call.”  
A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to close all nominations for Public Works Chairman.  
On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Dexter Brown and Coby Clavier. NAYS: ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.  
**Motion carried.**  
Madam Chairwoman Vivian Olivier stated, “We will have a vote for the Chairman of the Public Works. We have two nominations. Coby Clavier and Dexter Brown. Roll call.”

<i><b>Council Member’s Name</b></i>	<i><b>Nomination</b></i>
Councilman Alvin Stelly	Coby Clavier
Councilman Dexter Brown	Dexter Brown
Councilman Jimmie Edwards	Dexter Brown
Councilman Coby Clavier	Coby Clavier
Councilwoman Mildred Thierry	Dexter Brown
Councilman Gil Savoy	Coby Clavier
<b>Chairwoman Vivian Olivier</b>	<b>Dexter Brown</b>

**Madam Chairwoman Vivian Olivier had to break the tie. She stated,** “I will break the tie with Dexter Brown.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “I would first like to thank everyone on the Public Works Committee and Madam Chairwoman, Thank you.”

5. Person to address the Committee:
  - **Ms. Carrie Baird** addressed the council regarding Animal Control Ordinances. She stated, “Good evening, my name is Carrie Baird and I appreciate the opportunity to speak at this meeting. I really don’t have time to be here. I have a freeze coming up and I have to get animals prepared for. I think that is absolutely atrocious when I called Animal Control two weeks in the freezing cold of 22 degrees with the wind chill factor in the teens for a dog that had been in a house in the middle of the yard with no wind to block it, no blanket, no hay and no heat. I was told by Animal Control that nothing

could be done because you have not changed the ordinance of just requiring a dog to have a dog house. How cruel is that? Please tell me. Any of you all have been outside in the freezing cold? Animals died that night. Animals had to have ears, tail and toes amputated due to frost bite. Is that what we call Louisiana Proud? I got a video sent to my phone last week. This happened in Opelousas. It is a little girl picking up a puppy and slamming it on the concrete slab. You can hear the father saying, do it again, daddy did not see. The video shows the child doing it four times. That is okay in this parish. You all sit by and let things happen to God's creatures when the bible says that you are to take care of these creatures, because the breath that he breed in Adam is the same breath that he breed into these animals. We go to Church, but yet we cannot take care of God's Animals. You have people in this parish that don't care, they should never have animals. You have people in this parish that are poor and can't afford to take care of their animals, but there is always ways to help people. I am not saying go pick up peoples animals, what I am saying is make them do the right thing. This dog, the owner, I went out and bought \$81.00 of supplies the week before. Four lamps, eight bulbs, four large comforters and one close cell sheet of insulation which cost me \$20.00 just for the insulation board. He used it only on a couple of his dogs and left the rest. He said he was in a hurry. I told him that I had given him this one week ago to prepare for those animals. There is no excuse for this. He was in New Orleans the whole freeze, he did not care. He said sometimes my animals have to be neglected, so what. You all have the authority and have been given the right to take care of this problem. If this was a perfect world, I would not be here, but it is not perfect. It is you all job to make sure that things like this do not happen. It is not acceptable on any level and it is very evil. I know what it is like to spend the night in a dog house in the freezing cold, I have done it, you know why, because when I was young, my mother married a drunk and he beat me for 17 years. When my dog was out in the freezing cold, I was not going to let my dog suffer, so I climbed in the dog house with my animal and kept her warm all night and prayed all night long, please God kill us, because neither one of us wanted to be in that environment. My teachers did nothing, my doctor saw the bruises and did not report it. He told my mother that it was not punishment, it was child abuse. I know what it is like to be neglected. I know what it is like to be abused. I know what it is like to be forgotten. These animals do not deserve this on any level. A year ago, KATC said, there is an article, March, last year, it said that you all were going to improve the Ordinance. It does not take a year to make an Ordinance that says in the freezing cold, an animal deserve to have blankets and heat if it is below freezing. In the summer time shade, because if you spend the day in your house with the air conditioning off and no fan to circulate the air, it is hot in a dog house in the middle of 90 degree heat. If the animal does not have shade, then that animal have to suffer in that heat. You take four T-poles and you go to a Thrift Store where you can buy old blankets for cheap, one dollar, two dollars or a sheet or cheap tarp from Harbor Freight and tie it to the four T-poles and the animal have some type of shade to lay under and at least get a breeze. I don't want you all to take peoples animals away, I want you all to make them do the right thing and educate these people on what to do."

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** "We appreciate your concerns. We are going to address it accordingly. I would like to direct your concerns to our Parish President, Mr. Bellard."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "First of all, what is that address."

**Ms. Carrie Baird stated,** "200 Richard Street."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "We don't need an ordinance for cruelty, that is a state statue. Our books have it so that is not an issue. The ordinance that we have in place now is working. We are changing it, we have a committee that is put in place right now. They have already had 4-5 meetings to reach everybody to make sure that we do the right way. What happen on that day right there with that animal, I will find out tomorrow, but it is a cruelty case, there is a law in the books for that. On the second issue with the dog and the three year old girl, that took place in Acadia Parish. It was investigated in our parish last week and it was found to be on the LSUE Campus. That is being handled by LSUE Campus Police and they are looking at it. I did make some phone calls because it needs to be seen about and they are seeing about it. I talked to the Chancellor on Monday and they are working on that. On the Ordinance part of it, they are working on it. It is not going to be as drastic as the one that we had in place that was proposed because some of the stuff did not need to be in there but it is going to be what is needed to be for our parish, it will fit our parish. It won't be long. When it

comes to cruelty, we don't need an ordinance for that because that is the State Statute that gives that."

**Ms. Carrie Baird stated,** "That is what I taught but they told me that they could not do anything. It just said that they had to give them a dog house, no blanket, no hay or nothing. That is all that is required by the parish."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "The law does say, as long as you give them proper care, the law does not say that you have to give them a heater, I can tell you that."

**Ms. Carrie Baird stated,** "No, but the dog had nothing but a house."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "I understand. Let me look into it and see."

**Ms. Don Leger addressed the council. He stated,** "Thank you for allowing me to speak. I am concerned about discussing any other business properly brought before this committee. I want to bring before you a problem that I see with parking and ask that maybe something can be addressed. Recently there were about 3 or 4 slots directly in front of the courthouse that were dedicated to security forces and that tightened up the parking for everybody in the business district. Shortly after that, somebody decided that they would take away the handicap parking spaces right in the front of the courthouse and orange cones were inserted. I taught maybe they were re-stripping or something. I pulled in and park there and the deputy came and told me that I could not park there. I told him that my handicap thing is up there. I don't use it all the time but sometimes I really need the handicap space. I taught it was a delivery that was coming right then. Three days later, I came to the courthouse and I could not park in the handicap place, it was blocked off. I can't imagine that somebody would decide that they were going to take away all of the dedicated handicap parking spaces because they might get a delivery. I am sure that somebody have the power to decide where every parking place can be allocated, except the Americans with Disabilities Act requires handicap accessible parking, it is not an option that you can say, we will think about it or we will do it later. Handicapped people have rights. They have rights to come to the court house and do their business as best that they can. This is ridiculous. I think that it needs to be re-taught. I don't care who made the decision, I just think that it needs to be re-taught and addressed to allow handicap people to park in the handicap designated space. Thank you."

## 6. Public Works Report

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "We are still doing everything that needs to be done in the parish. We are still doing ditching, we are still doing gravel roads and everything is moving. Unless you all have any complaints or concerns about Public Works, you all can ask me now."

**Councilman Alvin Stelly questioned,** "When are we going to get gravel?"

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "As of right now, we can't get gravel. All we can get is Limestone and Limestone as you know does not go as far. We have not been told an estimated time to get gravel. It is making it bad because we can't go as far with a load of Limestone."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "Just a FYI, next Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 6 p.m. I will do a State of the Parish Address at the Delta Grand. I am inviting all of the council to come to the State of the Parish to let the people know where we are, how we finished 2021 and how we are moving forward in 2022. That is next Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at the Delta Grand at 6:00 p.m. We will have all of the Directors there. I have other things to discuss on Administrative Finance."

**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry questioned,** "Mr. Bellard, what about the debris, did we get to move forward on that yet in the parish?"

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "The debris is still in the same place. They have not given us permission to burn. DEQ have not released anything on our burn site. Everything is still as it is. I wish we would have it to burn but they have not released it yet."

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to accept the Public Works Report.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

**Motion carried.**

7. Forward all applications received for two appointments to Fire District No. 6 for a two-year term. (02-17-2022 – 02-17-2024).  
A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022** all applications received for two appointments to Fire District No. 6 for a two year term. (02-17-2022 – 02-17-2024).  
On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.  
**Motion forwarded.**
  
8. Update on the widening of Beck Miller Road. (Councilman Coby Clavier).  
**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “In the Spring they are going to do it but I don’t know how wide they will be able to go.”  
**Councilman Coby Clavier stated**, “Anything will help. That is good news. Thank you.”
  
9. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to the Coulee Crouch Fire Protection District No. 4 for a two-year term. (04-20-2022 – 04-20-2024).  
A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to the Coulee Crouch Fire Protection District No. 4 for a two-year term. (04-20-2022 - 04-20-2024).  
On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.  
**Motion forwarded.**
  
10. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to the South St. Landry Community Library District for a five-year term. (04-01-2022 – 04-01-2027).  
A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to the South St. Landry Community Library District for a five-year term. (04-01-2022 - 04-01-2027).  
On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.  
**Motion forwarded.**
  
11. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for five appointments to the St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No.5 for a three-year term. (04-21-2022 – 04-21-2025).  
A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for five appointments to the St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No. 5 for a three-year term. (04-21-2022 - 04-21-2025).  
On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.  
**Motion forwarded.**
  
12. Discuss Speed Bump Installation. (Councilman Timmy Lejeune).  
**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated**, “I have spoken to Public Works concerning this. I am good with that. I have no questions. Thank you.”
  
13. Discuss any other business properly brought before this committee.  
None.
  
14. Adjourn.  
A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to adjourn the Public Works Committee Meeting.  
On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.  
**Motion carried.**

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