

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

1. Chairman Wayne Ardoin called this meeting of the Administrative/Finance Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. Councilman Jerry Red Jr., led the Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation.
3. **Roll Call:** Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Harold Taylor and Timmy Lejeune.  
Ex-Officio Vivian Olivier. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin.  
*Councilman Easton Shelvin was absent for roll call but later joined the meeting.*

**Announcement of Public Meeting**

*Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at its regular meeting place, the Old City Market, 131 W. Bellevue Street, Opelousas, Louisiana, the Parish Council of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling elections to be held in (i) Sub-Road District No. 1 of Road District 11A of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana and (ii) Sub-Road District No. 2 of Road District 11A of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana to authorize the levy of ad valorem taxes therein.*

4. Person to address the Committee:
  - **Mr. John Trahan addressed the council.** He stated, “Good evening, at the last meeting they had some talk about the Group Homes and stuff coming into St. Landry Parish. I have a few questions about it. Are they non-profits?”  
**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I am not quite sure. We sent out letters and went meet with the people who have them that we know of right now. They were asked to go and get an Occupational Licenses. I think we have one on the agenda tonight to discuss that. I am not sure of their background, I am not sure of anything about the companies, but that is the process of doing the Occupational License.  
**Mr. John Trahan stated,** “To me, if you are a non-profit, you would have to have some paper work behind you to show what you are. I believe if you are a non-profit, you don’t pay parish taxes either. Is that correct?”  
**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I am not quite sure about the non-profit status, I could not tell you.”  
**Mr. John Trahan stated,** “If they are non-profit, we lose all the way around. I am paying taxes, they are not paying taxes and they are devaluing the property around them.”  
**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “The reason why we have that ordinance is because they have to come in front of this council to get the Occupational License. Normally, other business don’t, but in this particular case, they have to come in from of the council to show the need and the cause.”  
**Mr. John Trahan stated,** “But all the ones that have been caught, they have not come and applied for a license. People have turned them in.”  
**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Correct. We made contact with them, so far we have one that is coming in. They all went to try to get Occupational Licenses, but when they were told that they had to come in front of the council, the first one is tonight.”  
**Mr. John Trahan stated,** “I don’t see where we are going to end with this process because I believe we have a big loophole here in St. Landry Parish because they are just coming into the parish and going into business. There is a lot of vacant property and there are a lot of houses. What are you all trying to do, fixing up, selling, turning down the old houses that are abandon, that is great, that is helping out everybody, but those coming in is not helping out everybody.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Like I said, they have to come in front of the council to get an approval for the Occupational License and we have a new ordinance in place. It is brand new.”

**Mr. John Trahan stated,** “The other ordinance that you all had was supposed to take care so this would not happen, but you see what happened?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Yes Sir.”

**Mr. John Trahan stated,** “I have another question. In the process of trying to get a little bit of information, I live in Sunset, I am on Section 8, none of the parish offices are listed in our book, It is not just ours, I am sure the people in Port Barre don’t have it listed in theirs, nor Melville, or Krotz Springs. If you need to get in touch with anybody in the parish, you are out of luck if you have to look it up in the book because everybody is with cell phones now or days.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We can look it up and see. I don’t know why we are not in the books but we can find out.”

**Mr. John Trahan stated,** “They have all the schools in there, I think that is something that we need to move up and do.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Okay, we can take care of that.”

**Mr. John Trahan stated,** “Okay, thank you.”

- **Ms. Astera Espree - Occupational License addressed the council and stated,** “I was wanting an Occupational License. I have a group home. It is in Arnaudville. I have mental patients there. I got registered thru the state. I did not know that I need the Occupational License. That is why I am here.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., questioned,** “How long have you all been operating?”

**Ms. Astera Espree stated,** “Since December, 2020.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., questioned,** “Okay, you all have Federal ID and everything?”

**Ms. Astera Espree stated,** “Yes Sir, I have my EIN Number and I am registered to thru the state. I have my certificate right here.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., questioned,** “Okay, and what else do you have?”

**Ms. Astera Espree stated,** “My EIN Number and my State Registration.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “Mr. Bellard, what is the reason for this group home to come before the parish?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “The Ordinance was passed last year or last November I believe or December, I am not sure when we passed it, so anybody who is not in compliance have to come in front of the council to get an Occupational License.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “Now let me ask this question, being that they have been operating since 2020 and this ordinance came in 2021, wouldn’t that grandfather them to operate? My reason for saying that, they had a behavior home in Sunset, when they were open, they had their license before we passed the ordinance. Because they were already operating before the ordinance came into play, we could not do anything about it.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I believe if I am not mistaken, that happened in 2014, the ordinance was passed after the Occupational License was issued or the building license was issued for that place, so they were already established. If I am not mistaken, the ordinance was passed after the fact. This right here, the ordinance passed, she does not have an Occupational License as we stand now. So anybody who is in the business and does not have an Occupational License needs to come and get one.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., questioned,** “So they just have to go to your office and get an Occupational License?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “No Sir, the council passed this ordinance specific with group homes. It has to come to the council for approval on the Occupational License. Normally, every other Occupational License goes thru the Sheriff’s Office with the difference with the auto repair shops and different types, they have to come to my office for approval. This one right here is specific to the council.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “If they don’t come before the council, they get shut down?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Yes, that would be the whole thing, without Occupational License, you can’t operate.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “Okay, let me ask one more question. They have a group home or whatever kind of home in Sunset, I believe that is from Our Savior’s Church. They have to come before this council?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “It is not a group home.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., questioned,** “What kind of home is it?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “It does not fit into anything that we have. That is the biggest problem.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “This is my problem that I have with that. These people have their Federal ID and everything else. This home in Sunset don’t have not one piece of paper and you are telling me that we can’t shut them down?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “What I am saying is, the place that is over there at Our Savior’s Church does not meet the definition of a group home and it does not meet the definition of the mental institution or any other thing or a behavioral clinic across the way. It does not fit. There is no license for that place over there. It is considered a Church or whatever they want to call themselves. This right here is specific to a group home which is why the ordinance was passed.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “My last question, now what is the reason that this group home, did they come to get a license?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “They went to the Sheriff’s office to get an Occupational License.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “So they have to come before the council?”

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

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “So we need to make a motion to forward it before the full council.”

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

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “If I am in order, I would like to make motion to forward it to the full council.”

**Councilman Easton Shelvin stated,** “I second it.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “It would seem to me that the proper way to do this is have somebody look at this and make sure that you are credentialed like you say you are and that would be up to the administration. Jessie, do you all have provisions to do that before we take action on this to handle this particular request?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Yes Sir, we can go out and look at it but the ordinance doesn’t specify how to go about doing this. The ordinance just says that the person has to come or the business have to come in front the council for approval. But I mean we don’t have no problem going look for whatever we need to look for but the ordinance is not specific on that.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “Mr. Chairman, If I am in order, and being that the ordinance don’t have anything about the parish going check to make sure if they are in order, I would like to make a motion that we forward this to the full council so we can take action on this.”

**Councilman Easton Shelvin stated,** “I second it.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned,** “Mr. Bellard, is there an application process?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Correct, with the Sheriff’s Office.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned,** “And, we don’t have one for the parish? All they do is submit that application to you?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “The Sheriff’s Office does it on our behalf. The Occupational Licenses are done on our behalf at the Sheriff’s Office.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “So, my real concerns are, just anybody who comes here with a stack of paper, we say ‘yes’ or ‘no’. I don’t think that is a very great idea. I think that the purpose of passing this ordinance was so they would have checks and balances. At this point right now, I don’t know if we have a check or a balance. I am not saying that they are not operating correctly other than the fact that they don’t have an Occupational License. So could we maybe get you all to review the application and make sure that all what they say that they

have is correct and it matches the application and then review the property and give us you all opinion on it and then we move it to full council or what have you.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I think the only thing that we can do is follow the ordinance. I will review the ordinance again. Garrett is right here, you can ask Garrett those legal questions and see where we are at with that, but I don’t see in our ordinance where it specifies anything regarding that.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “Right, it says a group home is defined as a residence or a building operating as a residence for unrelated individuals for one or more individuals is a convicted sex offender and or one or more of the individuals is a convicted felon. The Federal Government does not define convicted sex offenders or convicted felons as people with disabilities and so we are able to regulate a group home based on that where it does consider people mental illness and people with substance abuse problems as having a disabilities and you can’t discriminate against them on the basis of housing. So on the application process, the people seeking to open a group home would let our government office know who is living there and basically how it operates and information. Based on that information, the council would take that and decide whether or not they get the permit, whether or not they get the Occupational License because if it is for a profit, they do have to have an occupation license. The ordinance says they do have to come before the council to get the council permission. So once the information is acquired about this home, that will go into the process of deciding whether or not they can open it or not.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “Mr. Chairman, having read the ordinance, it seems as though, how are we going to know if they are sexual offenders or not? We have not done any research or background check on this. We can’t vote on this ladies and gentlemen. This is absurd. We got to have the information.”

**Councilman Easton Shelvin questioned,** “Do you all have all the credentials that is required by our ordinance now?”

**Ms. Astera Espree stated,** “Yes, everybody is classifying this home as a group home.”

**Councilman Easton Shelvin questioned,** “Do you have all of your paper work?”

**Ms. Astera Espree stated,** “Yes, we can produce this. It is an independent home where the people are functional, they can administer they own things, they are not sex offenders which he stated as a group home is classified as, they people are not sex offenders.”

**Councilman Easton Shelvin stated,** “I understand what Mr. Taylor is saying that we have no idea of who you are housing but according to our ordinance, I want to go and second the motion to Mr. Red, since they are in compliance with the ordinance.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “Well we don’t know.”

**Councilman Easton Shelvin stated,** “They have the paper work, our ordinance does not call for anything.”

**Ms. Astera Espree stated,** “There is another home, maybe five or ten minutes down the road from us.”

**Councilman Easton Shelvin stated,** “We want to deal with your home.”

**Ms. Astera Espree stated,** “I work in the mental field. I have been in the mental field for eleven years. They are people just like us, they need somewhere to stay. I have people living with me, living there on the grounds, I am even on the grounds with these people, they are human beings. It is like everybody is against them and I don’t understand why. I don’t.”

**Councilman Easton Shelvin stated,** “I don’t think that we are against you this evening, I think the fact is we got to stay in line with our ordinance and we want to make sure.”

**Ms. Astera Espree stated,** “I understand that, I understand that, like they said about profit, it is not even about that because I have people that are living at the home that is not even paying anything. I know these people and they need a place to stay and I house them.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned** “How many people do you have their Ma’am?”

**Ms. Astera Espree stated,** “I have six people.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Six people, Mr. Bellard.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Mr. Chairman, the ordinance also calls for 75% of the people in that area within a 1000 feet so we have to get that as well. We have to get that signed from the neighborhood.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Mr. Red, let me ask you a question. Do you want to put in your ordinance that they meet the qualifications and we bring it back up once we get all of that because we have that neighborhood we have to deal with? I think we have a councilmember that is not present here tonight that is the councilmember in that area. Is that the one Mr. Bellard where Mr. Stelly represents?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “That is correct.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Would you please change your motion that once it meets all of the criteria?”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., sated,** “That is fine, I will add that to the motion that it meet all qualifications that the ordinance calls for. I would like to add this also, if there is something that you all would like to change in the ordinance that you all are asking for, you need to put that in the ordinance first. Because you can’t ask anyone to go and do something if it is not in the ordinance.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “On this particular ordinance and I am reading it more as we go alone here tonight, it states that no sex offenders and everything else, so Garrett how do we monitor that? We don’t have access to records.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “On the initial application, they should provide information to the Parish Government as to who is living there. Once they sign it, they put their signature on it, then we will assume that they are telling the truth. The other thing I want to say is that the council is going to need information, they can’t make the decision blind. You will have to provide information. Are you located in a residential neighborhood?”

**Ms. Astera Espree stated,** “Yes I am.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “Okay, that is important because it is part of the ordinance too. The first thing is, we have to find out who is living there because that determines whether the ordinance comes into affect or not. The Federal Government is only going to let them make regulations when it comes to housing in certain areas concerning certain people. They are going to need that information when you apply and you sign off on it as to who is living there whether or not their background checked. If it is people with mental illness or substance abuse problems, they cannot discriminate against them when it comes to housing, that is the Federal Fair Housing Act. So they need to know who is living there, once they do, then they will continue on with the process. At some point when you are in the process, they will be able to make a decision whether you are permanent or not.

**Ms. Astera Espree stated,** “I have all of their paper work. I do.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Mr. Duplechain, are you going to look back at this ordinance and put some other stuff in it or do you feel that it is a good ordinance? The verbiage?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “It is a good ordinance but we did get a letter from the Federal Government about the 75% whether or not we want to amend it to take that out. Other than that, they seem to be fine with the ordinance. The letter from the Federal Government was fine with our ordinance except for requiring the 75%. So the council needs to decide whether they want to amend it on that basis or not.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “How about in six months she gets a sex offender in. She gave you the paper work that she did not have any, then she gets one in, is she responsible to come in and let you know that I have one that is in my home now?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “What she signs will say, if there is a change in regards to that, then she will have to let the Parish Government know. Once she puts her signature on it, we will just assume she will follow the rules and inform the Parish Government. All we can do is get her to sign off on it.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned,** “What else do you offer at this group home?”

**Ms. Astera Espree stated,** “They get their lunch, dinner, breakfast. They go to group counseling, I offer them a place to stay and we do things with them. We take them to the movies, we take them to eat out, and we try to rehabilitate them.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned,** “What is the time frame that they stay with you?”

**Ms. Astera Espree stated,** “Six to Twelve Months, I have one that is fixing to move out, moving to Wyoming. She came to me really messed up, now she is able to function and she is moving out to go to Wyoming.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Mr. Red, you want to re-submit your motion that you are making?”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “No Sir, my motion is just like it said.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Are you going to put in that they bring the right credentials and the right credentials be presented to us before we bring it to a council vote?” Would you read it again?”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated,** “It said, as long as they have everything that is required for them to have, I made a motion that we forward it to the full council to get them approved if I can get a second.

**Councilman Easton Shelvin stated,** “You got it.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “They don’t have everything.”

**Councilman Easton Shelvin stated,** “Once they get the application, he is saying.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “What I was handed here and I think you looked at it too, all it is a corporation with the state. It does not say anything where they went to the Clerk of Court.”

**Ms. Astera Espree stated,** “I did go, this is the application that I got. I got this from the Sheriff’s Office. Also I got another one because I have another business. I was able to do my other business and for my Group Home, I had to come in front of the Council, so I do have the application.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “We have someone in the audience that probably could answer this. Ms. Bambi Polotzola, are you required to be licensed by DHH, Department of Health or do you know? *Ms. Bambi Polotzola was not near the microphone to hear her response.*

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Can I get a copy of that for our clerk.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “We have to have 75% approval of the community, the signatures, do we have that document? Do you think we will have all that information ready within two weeks?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “There is 75% of the people living within 1000 feet.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned,** “Is the application filled out at the present time?”

**Ms. Astera Espree stated,** “No, it is not filled out, but she gave it to me to fill out but I had to come in front of the council is what they told me to get it taken care of.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “To get it approved, but you don’t have it filled out yet.”

**Ms. Astera Espree stated,** “I don’t have a problem with filling it out.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “I understand Ma’am. I am just trying to move something forward that I never saw. I would request that the Parish take no action against you all at this time.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I also have another issue. It also states in the ordinance that it shall not be in a residential area. That is another issue. What is classified as a residential area?”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “Mr. Chairman, I would like to offer a Substitute Motion that we allow this party to continue for the next 30 days so that we can get the rest of the information to see if they actually qualify to do this. In two weeks, I don’t think you will be able to get all of this information in two weeks. The application haven’t been submitted yet.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “I think they should continue operating. They have been operating for two years until we find out.”

**Councilman Easton Shelvin stated,** “I second that Sub-Motion.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “You want to retract your second on Mr. Red’s motion and you are going to second on Mr. Lejeune’s. Mr. Red, do you want to withdraw your motion or do you want to continue with it?”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “No, I am not withdrawing my motion. You have a Substitute Motion.”

**Councilman Easton Shelvin stated,** “I had seconded both of them. I did second Mr. Red’s motion for them to continue with it and let them go ahead and operate.

*No action taken.*

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “You offered a Sub-Motion Mr. Taylor, do you have a second?”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “Yes.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Let’s get one thing straight. Mr. Shelvin are you going to second Mr. Red’s motion?”

**Councilman Easton Shelvin stated,** “Yes.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “So you withdraw the second that you just said you were going to do with theirs?”

**Councilman Easton Shelvin stated,** “Yes.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Okay, we will deal with Mr. Red’s motion now. Now Mr. Taylor you have a Sub-Motion.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “I have a Sub-motion but we need a second.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “I will second.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Let’s read Mr. Red’s motion so that it will be on the record, and we will read Mr. Taylor’s motion and we will take a vote.”

**Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated,** “Mr. Red’s motion is to forward it to the full council on March 16, correct?”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “Pertaining that they have everything required.”

**Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated,** “The Sub-motion for Mr. Harold, you want to wait 30 days.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “Allowing them to operate for 30 days until we can get all the information together and make an intelligent decision, a thoughtful and intelligent decision.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “On Mr. Red’s motion, I will ask for a vote.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “No, you have to go with the Sub-Motion first.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “We will go with Mr. Taylor’s motion which is the Sub-Motion and I have a second from Mr. Lejeune.”

A **Sub-Motion** was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022** to allow Ms. Astera Espree to continue operating her group home for the next 30 days until the council get additional information to make a thoughtful and intelligent decision regarding her Occupational License.

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

*The Sub Motion becomes the main motion.*

A **Motion** was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022** to allow Ms. Astera Espree to continue operating her group home for the next 30 days until the council get additional information to make a thoughtful and intelligent decision regarding her Occupational License.

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

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr.**, informed Ms. Astera Espree to complete her Occupational License Application.

**Ms. Estera Espree** requested a copy of the Group Home Ordinance.

- **Mr. Charles Cravins addressed the council and stated**, “I am sorry for not signing the slip. I was not trying to be disrespectful to you all or barge in. I was under the impression that we were on the agenda tonight and we would be recognized. I am here tonight for the purpose of asking the council to remove the Monument from the North East corner of the Courthouse Square. That Monument is of the type that is normally referred to as a Confederate Monument. I think that is a misclassification of the Monument. The Monument is more accurately described as a Monument to the Knights of the White Camila or the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. I have reasons for saying that. When I walked in here tonight, my friend, Councilman Red said, what is that on your forehead? I am sure some of you all know what that is. Those are Ashes from Mass today. Ash Wednesday and those Ashes are a reminder that we are all equal. “Remember man that thou are dust and unto dust, thou shall return.” We are all equal in the sight of God and we all ought to be equal in the sight of our Government. To have that Monument on our Courthouse Square is an indication that our Government does not see us equally. I am not here tonight to fuss with anybody, I am not here for recrimination. I don’t believe that anybody in here was alive in 1920 when that Monument was erected. I understand, I think the greatest gift that God has given me is the gift of Empathy, to be able to put myself in other people shoes. I understand that some people believe that these Monuments are part of History. Certainly they are, but just because they are part of history doesn’t mean that they are good. A friend of mine told me yesterday, He said you know, I believe that some of my relative’s names are on the monument, but if Putin was my cousin, I would not want them to put a monument of Putin on the Courthouse Square. Let me just give you all a little history about these monuments. This monument particularly is inscribed in several places with the initials of the Confederate States of America and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The United Daughters of the Confederacy were established as a Propaganda Auxiliary of the Ku Klux Klan. This monument was put up in 1920. It was not put up in 1870 or 1875 right after the Civil War like the 911 Monument was put up a few years after 911. This was put up when African Americans were registering to vote. It was put up as a symbol, you better not come here, don’t come here and register, when people were being terrorized by the Klan. That is why it was put up. I don’t believe that anybody in this room would stand for that monument to be put up today. So, I started out with the reference to Ashes and I have Judge Vanessa Harris who is here. She would also like to say a few words. I want to end with the reference to Faith also. If you all would allow me. I am not hiding the fact that I am Catholic, it is on my forehead. We have a Prayer we say in the Catholic Church called the Penitential Right. It say, “I have sinned before Almighty God thru my own fault. I confess to you Brothers and Sisters, I have sinned before Almighty God thru my own fault. In my taught and in my words and what I have done and what I have failed to do.” The concept that we can sin not only by what we have done but by what we have failed to do is universal in faith. Whether we are Catholic, Protestant, Jewish or Muslim, we all would agree that you can have a sin of Commission or a sin of Omission. None of us in here tonight, none of you are guilty of the sin of Commission in putting up that monument to intimidate African American’s from voting, none of you. But if we fail to remove it, then we are guilty of a sin of omission. I ask you all to vote to remove it. I don’t care what you do with it. I am not asking you to tear it in little pieces, the council can decide what you are going to do with it. I would ask you not to spend any government money or donate government property to a private individual or a private group without fair compensation. I have heard some great ideas, I had one myself which was I understand you all have approved the statue of St. Landry. I think that St. Landry would be a much more fitting representative of what this Parish is about. A man who sold everything that he owned and the Challises used in the Church to feed the poor during a famine and established the first public hospital in Paris in 661, I think, that is still in existence today and it is the largest public hospital in France. I think having a statue for a person who our parish is named after in that spot, who is such a commendable person would be a wonderful thing. I don’t think it is a religious thing because the name of the parish is what, St. Landry. Another idea I received from a local historian last night would be to put the monument in a museum and have a substantial plaque there saying why it was erected and why it was removed



so that it is placed in context. So, those are some of the ideas. As far as I care, somebody can take it and put it in their living room, I am not responsible for what people do in their house and what they believe or learned a long time ago, I can't make people believe what I want them to believe, but what we can do, we can control what Government does. This Government Property, this monument should come down and it should come down soon. Brown vs the Board of Education, declaring that segregation in public schools was decided by the Supreme Court in 1954 and they said that all schools should be desegregated with all deliberate speed. So the schools in St. Landry Parish was desegregated in 1969, fifteen years later. I would offer to you tonight that fifteen years is not all deliberate speed and this monument should be removed closer to fifteen days from now than fifteen years. I yield the floor to Judge Vanessa Harris."

- **Judge Vanessa Harris addressed and stated,** "Good evening, forgive me to for not signing in. I to echo what Mr. Cravins so eloquently said. The statue has no place here. I am reminded of something that was shared by my grandfather, Edward Harris Sr., when he was a young man. He was not allowed to enter into the Courthouse Building because of his race. My father, as all of you know it is Aaron Harris, when he was admitted to the Louisiana State Bar, he was not allowed to join the St. Landry Parish Bar Association because of his skin color. That statue represents constant reminders to myself, to other people in the community, especially African Americans what the statue means. In our eyes, it is raciest and it has no place here. This is not the Confederate grounds, this is our grounds, the people of St. Landry Parish. So I respectfully request as well that you all remove the statue. Thank you."
- **Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** "I would like to make a motion that we would look into removing the statue as soon as possible."
- **Councilman Easton Shelvin stated,** "I second it."
- **Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** "Can you put a little more clarity into your motion."
- **Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** "They would replace it with something that would be a little more appropriate, something that would represent all people."
- **Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** "I am saying, rather than saying looking into, because the might take years, how about making a motion to just have the monument moved."
- **Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** "That is what I intended to say. It would be moved and we would replace it."
- **Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** "I have your motion and I have your second. If you all would let me run the meeting, I would go ahead because I have one gentleman that have signed since the other speakers came. I will go ahead and let him speak, then we will go ahead and take up the motion."
- **Mr. Robert Voitier addressed the council and stated,** "I live at 205 Rue De Frejus in Broussard, La. But I use to live in St. Landry, if the past means that much. The reason I am here, I practiced Law here for 15-20 years, I don't know, I am retired. I know Mr. Cravins and I know Judge Harris and I understand that Mr. Cravins is upset or insulted or have some kind of negative emotions when he looks at the statue. There is a wave going around the country, if anybody have been paying attention that all these old monuments got to go. There have been monuments to Abraham Lincoln that have been torn down, there have been monuments to Teddy Roosevelt that have been torn down. That chicken have come home to roost here in St. Landry. Now, I am a member of a family that owns land in St. Landry. We have a farm near Morrow. If for Jurisdictional reasons or for whatever reasons it may be, we have an interest in the parish. That statue have been up there for 100 years. I am trying to think and I have not had a chance to talk to Mr. Cravins personally, one on one and I would like to do that at some point. I was late getting here, I apologize for that. This just doesn't make any sense to me, because I don't think any person in this room will deny that the Klan existed, Jim Crow existed, black people in this room personally and there are immediate Fore Barra's were insulted and denigrated for stupid ideas that took hold. I don't think anybody in here will argue with that. It does not make any sense. Everybody knows that. Ideas are powerful, words are powerful and this idea that we have to wipe out all references in history that might offend one or two or more people is just not sensible. Nobody is saying that bad things did not happen, a lot of them did. I want to recall something that I saw, and I really appreciate Mr. Cravins reference to the Catholic Faith and to Religion in General because I think that is where the root to all these problems lies. I distinctly recall seeing either on TV or Video at Church, at the time I was attending a Baptist

Church in Lafayette and I think the year was 1993. To give a little background on the Klan, it is not just black people that the Klan was against. The Klan was also against Jews and they were vehemently Anti-Catholic. If that is a fact, and it is, who was under those sheets? It was a bunch of White Protestant Men. In 1993 the Southern Baptist Convention confronted that issue and they appointed a member to represent the Southern Baptist Convention and there was a, I remember, a large black man in a suit, both gals are dressed in a suit on stage in the middle of the convention and the representative, the white guy representing the commission apologized on behalf of all the members in the Southern Baptist Convention for the wrongs, the hurts, the injuries, the lynchings, the murders, all the evil things that were done to the blacks. The black man said, I accept your apology and I forgive you. Now, where does the duty of forgiveness come from? It comes from the same place that the duty to love your neighbor comes from. It comes from the word of God. It would make a lot more sense to me for anybody interested in removing that statue and any other aspect of history good or bad to realize that and look for forgiveness in their heart to see if they could forgive and just call it done. I don't know how many of you all in here are married, but I will be married 50 years in September. Let bygones be bygones, forget it, don't waste the money. Just because a few people are insulted and don't like what they say it represents, how do we really know what it represents. Nobody who put it up is here, we can't look into their minds and see what they think. I am saying, people today can't project their opinions in the minds of people who put the statue up and it is just unjustified. Thank you for your time."

- **Mr. Charles Cravins addressed the council and stated,** "Mr. Ardoin, the gentleman referred to me several times and described motivation to me that I don't concur with so I just ask for an opportunity to correct some things. I don't forgive anybody in here because you did not do anything to me. I said earlier, none of you all have done this. So I am not here to forgive you all or let bygones be bygones. I am not insulted or offended by any of you. As far as I know everyone in here is my friend, especially everyone on this council and I appreciate you all. I am here because this is not right. I am not here because of what it represented in the past. I am here because of what it represents today and as ancillary to that the original purpose it was put up. A lot of people weren't even aware of this monument. I am sure many of you on this council weren't aware of it. I want to call your attention to the fact that there is a monument on the Northeast Corner and there is a monument on the Southeast Corner. I spoke to a St. Landry Parish Historian last night, if I said that person's name, you all would know that name and say that this person is the far most authority on St. Landry Parish History. This is what that person told me and I checked it out today. If you look at the monuments they were both put up in 1920. The Klan Monument does make reference to World War 1. The monument on the Southeast corner is a World War 1 memorial so why were there two? Both were put up in 1920. The one on the northeast corner was put up in March and the one on the southeast corner was put up on July 4, 1920. The reason was, according to the historian, is because the Klan was so Anti-Catholic that a lot of the White Catholic Citizens of Opelousas were opposed to that monument being put up and mentioning World War 1 and tying World War 1 Veterans to the Confederacy and the Klan. So what they did, they sponsored another monument which was put up on the Southeast corner and stands there today about twice as tall as this other monument. This is not about causing conflict, I don't believe that race is a real thing. I got a couple of dollars in my pocket, it is not much. These dollars are not a real thing, it is a piece of paper. The only reason that they have value is because we all believe that they have value. Race is the same way. It is a social construct that we have accepted as a real thing but it is not a real thing. Remember Man that Thou are dust and unto dust thou shall return. We are all equal. If you don't believe that race is not a real thing, I dare some of you all to check ancestry.com or 23 me. It is not a real thing. So this is not about race, this is about right and wrong."
- ***Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin ask a gentlemen in the audience by the name of Mr. Young to remain silent during the meeting or he will ask that security remove him.***
- **Mr. Charles Cravins continued,** "This is about equality, what America stands for. It not about what is going on in the rest of the country. If you all want to replace that with a statue of Abraham Lincoln, I want to come to the dedication or Theodore Roosevelt, I will come to the dedication. This is about this monument, it is not about any other. It is not about any other parish or county in America, it is about us. My family has been here

since 1764. 1764 not 1974. This Parish belongs to all of us. We are a community. We are not Mississippi, we are not Alabama and we are not Georgia. I am not insulted, I am not offended and I don't need your apology. You all have done nothing to me. I am just asking you all to do the right thing today. Thank you."

A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022** to remove the Monuments on the Northeast Corner and the Southeast Corner of the Courthouse Square and look into what their replacements will be.

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

**Motion forwarded.**

5. Parish President & Finance Report:

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "A copy of the Finance Report is in your packets. Ms. Caryn is out. She had her baby last week. She will be out until next month. She made a copy of everything. If you have any questions, you can contact me and we can go over it and I can help you all."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "The second part is the Communication Tower Permit Application. In the audience we have Mr. Tracy Gil. If you have any questions regarding the issue.

- **Mr. Tracy Gill addressed the council and stated,** "My address is 10 St. James Drive, Arkansas. I am working with Vertical Bridge. They are a company that builds Infrastructure for Wireless Communications Companies. In this case what we are talking about a Communication and Tower just east of what might be known as Kappy's Korner on HWY 182 and 178. The HWY is going east and west. There is a tree line on the north side and it's up in the field there to the east of what was the old store. The antenna sight would be a sub-supporting three legged tower structure. It does not have Guy Wires. There was in the past years ago a Guide Wire tower in that same field but it had the Guy Wires. This tower sight will consist of a 75' x 75' piece of land which is an easement for the antenna sight. It is designed for three carriers minimum. AT&T is set up to be the first carrier to go onto that sight once it is built. Vertical Bridge does not build Speculative Towers. So this tower we built, AT&T will mount their equipment on it and people in that area of the parish will have better signals from their phones or their wireless devices. They have designed the sight to be in complete compliance with the ordinance that have a board fence around it, it complies with the FAA and the FCC. All of that information was submitted to the Parish. There is in there as well a letter from the Engineer in the design of this Antenna Structure, it is what we call a Fall letter, it is probably better to be called a fold letter, basically what it says, if the winds blows horrifically strong, like in a hurricane or a tornado, the tower doesn't fall over like this, it kind of crinkles over like that and it stays within the land that easement contains, 75' x 75' square. So there is no danger to anybody else on a neighboring property that has the proper setbacks."
- **Councilman Harold Taylor questioned,** "Mr. Bellard, you vetted this and your recommendation is to go forward with it?"
- **Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "That is correct."
- **Councilman Jerry Red Jr., questioned,** "You said all phones would be operating once the tower goes up. That tower will be for what different Carriers?"
- **Mr. Tracy Gill stated,** "Well it is for specifically the first carrier, AT&T. That is only one that is set up to go on it at this point. They designed and built that so that other carriers can come and mount their antennas on it as well. This reduces what we call proliferation of antenna sights so you don't have a lot of towers all over, they design it so all of the carriers can come onto one tower."
- **Councilman Easton Shelvin questioned,** "How would it affect the already existing phones and cable wires?"

- **Mr. Tracy Gil stated,** “In the material that was submitted there is what they call a propagation map. It is a color coded map and it shows the signal strength and this again would be just for AT&T because they are the only carrier at this point going on there. So if you had a Verizon phone or a T-Mobile phone or something, it is not going to affect them, it could if T-Mobile or Verizon, also their antennas on that sight. What is shows is the FCC requires the phone companies to have a reasonable and adequate signal strength and quality of that signal. As more and more user come on line, not just with a cell phone but all the wireless data that is used and more and more and more it is not just the cell phone all the other is what pulls up all the capacity. So it will fill that void where it demonstrates on those propagation maps is a weak spot. It will bring it up and it will also provide a lot more capacity going forward. It does as well as in terms of thinking about it as a telephone, that is kind of old school now because there are so many wireless devices. What the FCC has mandated them to do, they are required to do this, is to provide that signal. Basically it provides the citizens of the parish more opportunities to have communication devices from not one or two companies but from a whole merit of companies. So AT&T is not just a phone company, Verizon is not just a phone company, they may be your cable TV company, they maybe your Internet Service Provider, they can do all of that. That is what the FCC is requiring them to do.”
- **Councilman Easton Shelvin stated,** “That is what have been told to me that it may drain the strength of the charters and the other existing paid companies now with the new material that is coming.”
- **Mr. Tracy Gill stated,** “I don’t understand that.”
- **Councilman Easton Shelvin stated,** “I was told that the new company that is being presented to us would draw the strength of what is an existence now. It would lower the band.”
- **Mr. Tracy Gill stated,** “No, what they do, in the old days, it was called cellular. If you think of a cell as eight sided and you looked at a whole grid across the whole parish and you had however many antenna sights and that signal and they would overlap a little bit. More and more Consumers come on line, they max out just like if you taught of your water department, how much water that can pump thru the pipes where a sewer line is the same thing. It is the infrastructure. That cell tower has a limited amount of capacity. With those towers that are out there now as they reach a higher capacity or they are going to fill up basically, they in fill and put another one in between and it will more than double because it expeditiously increases the capacity of the network as a whole. But is does not reduce signal. I have never hear that. It will only get better.”

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held **Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020** to authorize the Parish President to sign the Communication Tower Permit Application.

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

ABSTAINED: None.

**Motion forwarded**

- **Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Also you have a list of six pieces of blighted properties. We need to start that process of getting those properties cleaned up. One of the process is getting it in front of the council. The next step will be sending these letters out and putting it on the paper. We just need to get the process started. We already sent out letters and they disregard them. “
- **Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned,** “I am looking at the list, Mr. Lewis, did they clean up the one on McNeese Street because it is not on here.
- **Mr. Richard Lewis stated,** “No, not yet but they will clean it up.”
- **Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned,** “So, will it be on the list next time?”
- **Mr. Richard Lewis stated,** “No, why would it be on the list and they stated that they would clean it up.”

A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022** to authorize the Parish President to notify the landowners of the six blighted properties to show cause as to why their property should not be demolished.

***Blighted properties and parcel numbers***

No.	Parcel Number	Address	Town
1	0603314500	115 Sam Street	Eunice, La
2	0501246500	117 Primrose Street	Opelousas, La
3	0300657750	565 Koch Rd.	Arnaudville, La
4	0104355500	541 Brignac Lane	Opelousas, La
5	0103875700	239 Bullard Avenue	Opelousas, La
6	01065396650	1620 Gladys St.	Opelousas, La

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

**Motion forwarded**

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to accept the Parish President and Finance Report.

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

**Motion carried.**

- Forward all applications received 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 Harold Taylor seconded by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022** all applications received for one appointment to the St. Landry Community Library District for a five year term. (04-01-2022 – 04-01-2027).

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

**Motion forwarded.**

- Authorize to advertise for one appointment to the South St. Landry Community Library District for remaining of a five year term set to expire on 04-01-2024. Julia Battle has moved out of the state.

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to the South St. Landry Community Library District for the remainder of a five year term set to expire on 04-01-2024. Julia Battle has moved out of the state.

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

**Motion forwarded.**

- Authorize the Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign a Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act for 2021 Funds to Charles Guidry-Illustrious Pelican Grand Council for \$5,000.00.

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned**, “Mr. Bellard, could you tell me where is this Non-Profit?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard had stepped away from the meeting so there was no reply to Councilwoman Nancy Carriere’s question. Upon Parish President Jessie Bellard’s return he stated**, “We can table that one if you all don’t mind until I can get better information. I did not look into that person or that industry or that company. We can table that until we can get better clarity.”

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to **Table** authorizing the Parish President to sign a Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act for 2021 Funds to Charles Guidry-Illustrious Pelican Grand Council for \$5,000.00

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

**Motion carried.**

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Mr. Bellard, all of the others, you have checked those others out that we have proceeded on?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “They meet the criteria that we have set. The other ones have. This one right here probably meets the criteria, the problem is, what I found out before the meeting, I am not sure if that is a criteria that the head have to be in the parish or does the non-profit have to be in this parish.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “Well that was my question. Every parish got their share of the Cares Money so I would think that we would keep it within the parish. Any non-profit that is within the parish they would be the only ones allowed to be able to receive some of this money.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I agree, but the non-profit might be located in this parish is what I am saying. Maybe the head of the non-profit might not live here but the Non-profit itself might be. I will look into it tomorrow.”

9. Discuss the Occupational License for Mr. Keith Johnson (Councilman Jerry Red Jr.).

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “This was last month. The guy did not show up and did not have any kind of records showing that we talked about it in last month’s meeting. So we are putting it back up to forward it to the full council so we can take action on it.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We actually started the process of following our ordinance and sending it to the newspaper. By the time we come back to the council, hopefully, I am not sure if the next council meeting would be the right time, if you want to forward it and hopefully we have everything back in time, I definitely want to push for it, yes.”

A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Council Easton Shelvin to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022** the further discussion to remove the Occupational License for Mr. Keith Johnson.

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

ABSTAINED: None.

**Motion forwarded.**

10. Discuss the recording system. (Councilman Jerry Red Jr.).

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “I have this on here because of the last one dealing with Mr. Johnson. The Parish President remember speaking about it in the committee meeting in February and it shows no sign of it being spoken about when it came up to the full council meeting. My only question is, whoever is doing the typing from the meeting, I think they should be at the meeting. My only reason for saying that, they know what is going on in the meeting so they know if something took place or if it did not take place.”

**Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated,** “The conversation with Mr. Keith Johnson did not take place at the Committee Meeting in February. It took place in the January Full Council meeting for a letter to be written to Keith Johnson. Mr. Garrett Duplechain had wrote the letter and he spoke to Keith Johnson also the Assistant Clerk, Ms. Karen. It was not on the Committee. Me and Ms. Karen went back and listened to the tape again and did notify Mr. Bellard about that.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “So you remember speaking about that in February Mr. Bellard?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I mean, If I spoke about it in January, If I did it at January Full Council Meeting or I did it in February Committee Meeting, the fact to the matter is we discussed it and he should have come in front of this council to show cause why we shouldn’t take his Occupational License.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “I understand what you are saying but you said that it was discussed because I do remember you saying it in February Committee Meeting.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “If the recording does not say it, then I didn’t. But I know I did it and we spoke about it in a meeting.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “I am just going back with what you said. Because last month at the full council meeting you remember speaking about it at the committee meeting.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I taught I spoke about it in the committee meeting but the issue is we spoke about it and a letter was sent and he still did not come to the council in February like he was supposed to.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “That is why we did not take no action on it because you did not have the documents to back up.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “He was given the documents. Our Legal Adviser sent it to him and he spoke to him.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “But that was from Committee Meeting.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “No that was in the full council meeting.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at the full council meeting it was said to go forward with it and send a letter. So January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, a Thursday, Karen, our Assistant Clerk spoke with Mr. Johnson and said for him to show up to the full council meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022. On January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, the Monday, I spoke with Mr. Johnson and told him he could show up at the February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting to see if he is still eligible for an Occupational License. I sent a letter on that same day, the letter is date January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 stating to Mr. Johnson to show up if he want to at the February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting because it was decided at the full council meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to go forward with it and send a letter to Mr. Johnson. So I sent him the letter dated January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “The key is, it says, ‘*if he wants to*’ apparently he did not want to come so he did not show.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “That is right, he choose despite speaking to Karen on the phone or me on the phone and receiving the letter, I sent the same letter twice to make sure it got there and he still chose not to show up.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “So Mr. Red, the issue we have at hand now is two things. The property is blighted where it has junk cars all over the place and the Occupational License he has in place is Auto Sales. What I was asking, what we doing now is on the blighted side. We are sending out letters and we are going thru the motion with our official journal and the other part is the Occupational Licenses. He was given notice to show up, he choose not to. So in my opinion, I guess he does not want his occupation license so this council can remove it.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “So Mr. Duplechain, what you are doing, you are going in and follow up and give them the authority to go ahead and do what they need to do as a Parish Government?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “Yes, the Ordinance says that if he does not maintain that fence around it, which I don’t think he does, his Occupational License can be pulled and he is in violation of the ordinance, then the Occupational License can be pulled and at that point, he cannot have a salvage yard with junk in the yard.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Are you satisfied with that Mr. Red?”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “Oh I am very satisfied, my only take on it is when he don’t show up for a meeting, it should be action to take place. But because there was no documents to prove for us doing it, that is why we had to bring it back to another month. Is that correct?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Right, so now we can.....”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “Forward it to the full council and take action.”

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

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin read:**

#### **Announcement of Public Meeting**

***Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at its regular meeting place, the Old City Market, 131 W. Bellevue Street, Opelousas, Louisiana, the Parish Council of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling elections to be held in (i) Sub-Road District No. 1 of Road District 11A of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana and (ii) Sub-Road District No. 2 of Road District 11A of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana to authorize the levy of ad valorem taxes therein.***

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022** to authorize the Council Clerk to publicize this public meeting held on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

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

ABSTAINED: None.

**Motion forwarded.**

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “Just checking, have you all heard anything from Mr. Hefner in regards to the redistricting? I have not heard anything. I don’t know if the council clerk have heard anything.”

**Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated**, “No Sir. I can call him.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated**, “Would you like for her to place a phone call tomorrow?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “I will see where we are at with that. The last I heard, we were close.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated**, “I think Mr. Alvin and Mr. Kyle Boss got together on their differences on boundaries and that was the last that I had heard about it. If we do anything we will have to meet with the school board also to make sure that everybody is on board.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated**, “I have to items, the first one I have is about the I-Pads. Do we have an update on the I-Pads Mr. Bellard?”

**Tom Nicholson, IT Director stated**, “Layne was ordering them and that was the last that I have heard about them. I know it is a back order due to COVID but I don’t know the current.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “I will check with Layne first thing in the morning.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated**, “Okay, that last thing that I have is an update from the Police Jury. I believe next week is the meeting. Do we have any information on the Ms. Sherell?”

**Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated**, “It is the 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, at Golden Nugget. I have pretty much half of the council registered.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated**, “I remember hearing from one of the council saying that it was not clarified that the booking was booked.”

**Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated**, “Oh, the booking is taken care of.”

12. A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to adjourn the Administrative Finance Committee Meeting.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, 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**