

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021 @ 6:00 P.M.
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Council of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 18th, day of August, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

- I. Chairman Dexter Brown called the meeting of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
- II. Councilwoman Vivian Olivier led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.
- III. **PRESENT:** Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin and Coby Clavier. Ex Officio Dexter Brown. **ABSENT:** Nancy Carriere, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards.
Councilwoman Nancy Carriere and Councilman Jimmie Edwards was absent for roll call but later joined the meeting.

- *Chairman Dexter Brown stated, "At this time I would like to make a request to Amend the Agenda so this meeting can go Facebook Live. I would like to call the attention to Parish President Jessie Bellard regarding the Facebook Live Request." Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Today I had several people call me asking if we could go live on Facebook because we don't have enough room in the Council Chambers to place people. They are asking that we go live for this meeting tonight and post it on our Website as well. I would like to get the council's permission."*

A Motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., to have this Regular Meeting Recorded live for Facebook.

On roll call vote:

NAYS: Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry.

ABSENT: Nancy Carriere, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.

One NAY vote cancels the vote.

- IV. **Condolences:**
Councilman Jerry Red Jr.: Pastor Audrey Mae Chavis, Michael John Vallery, Joseph Lionel Sam Jr., Herbert Jenkins Sr., Wilton Young Sr., Donald Ray Francis.
Councilwoman Nancy Carriere: Lillia Auzenne LeDay, Margaret Ann Beverly Roberts, Joseph Lionel Sam Jr. Paul Larry Murphy Jr., Geraldine 'Big Mom' Blanche-Green, Pastor Audrey Mae Chavis, Bertha T. Payne, Ray Allen Guillory Jr.
Councilman Easton Shelvin: Donald Ray Francis, Ray Allen Guillory Jr., Paul Murphy Jr., Dr. Charles Bertrand.
Councilwoman Mildred Thierry: Wilton Young Sr., Ray Allen Guillory Jr., Geraldine 'Big Mom' Blanche-Green, Alvin Charles Coleman, Alvin Declouette, Paul Murphy Jr., Joseph Lionel Sam Jr., Willie Rashaud Williams, James Felix Young Jr., Margaret Ann Beverly Roberts, Herbert Jenkins Sr., Wilson Young Sr., Helen Campello Sylvester, Dr. Charles Bertrand, Hilda Ann Charles-Pickney, Donald Ray Francis, Everly Grace Lalonde, Preston Lewis.
Councilman Gil Savoy: Joseph Nelson Barron, Wayne Gauthier, Ronald Aymond, Paul Mallet Sr., Hilda Ann Pickney, Virgie Jones, Warren 'Biscuit' Basco
Councilwoman Vivian Olivier: Bessie Lee Mayfield Smith, Cynthia "Cindy" Stelly Romero, Emery Leger, Emelda Woods, Paul 'A.C.' Bellard
Councilman Wayne Ardoin: Robert Dale Devillier, Annette Verdino, William Amy, Joseph Barron, Dr. Charles Bertrand, Rose Marie Deville Burleigh, Paul "A.C." Bellard, Ted Arceneaux, Harold Fontenot, David Glenn Richard, Thomas Gerald Lamana, Christopher Barker, Stacey Jay Fontenot, Marie J. Fontenot, Charles Ray LeBlanc, Warren 'Biscuit' Basco.
Chairman Dexter Brown: Paul Murphy Jr., Donald Ray Francis.
Councilman Coby Clavier: Dorothy Vidrine

Chairman Dexter Brown called for a moment of silence for the families that lost their loved ones.

V. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL:

- Richard LeBouef, Executive Director, St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal. **Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated**, “Before Mr. LeBouef speak, I am the one that requested that he come tonight. I want to apologize to Mr. LeBouef for bringing him over here again tonight. It is not his fault that his Predecessor signed a contract with the people that are picking up the garbage in St. Landry Parish at this time. They are not following the protocol as far as the days of the week that they are supposed to come and pick up the people garbage cans in the southern part of Opelousas. It is like they don’t care if they don’t come back until three, four or five days later. I want to apologize to him because he has to come and answer these questions for the people that signed the contract. We just need to get to the bottom of this and have a better organization for picking up the garbage.”

Richard LeBouef, Executive Director, St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal stated, “Mr. Chairman, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentleman of the Council, we are an entity that needs to work together. We don’t have a set aside fund like other parishes do, everybody pays taxes. In 2007, Solid Waste Commission signed a seven-year contract with IESI Progressive, now Waste Connections. They were given a seven-year extension in 2014, which is now 2021. The contract ends on September 30, 2022. I have a request for a proposal that is out right now for complete new service for residential pick up thru out the parish. We have explained that before. A lot of the dilemma that you have been thru is three different owners in fourteen years in the parish, different collectors. When you spend between \$415,000.00 and \$435,000.00 a month for collection for the parish, you expect better than what we are getting. Some of the terms of this contract have no enforcement potential. If we are to take and fine them \$25.00 for each missed pick up, when I get to a \$1000.00 with the fines, we have to find an Arbitrary System to be able to try to petition to get that collection or short pay that invoice. With the new contract, if there are 20 penalized misses in a 30 day period, Solid Waste has the option to cancel the contract immediately. If you have three days without complete business days of service, Solid Waste will have the right to cancel the contract, the old contract was ten days. You have my number, 337-523-2900 and the number to the Landfill is 337-826-5211. Call me, we will do the best that we can and make it right.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “I want to thank you publically. Each time I had an issue, I reached out to you and the problem was solved and I want to thank you for that.”

Councilman Coby Clavier stated, “I just want to publically say thank you for each time I text or call you. You immediately solved the situation. I appreciate that.”

- **Mr. Scott Halphen** addressed the council regarding Voter Redistricting. He stated, “I would like to thank Mr. Bellard, he did return my call when I called about this. For me to vote from my area, I have to drive 63 miles round trip. My mom lives next door to me, she is 90 years old. I take her to the polls, she insist on voting, she has to go to Port Barre. I have to bring her to Port Barre and turn around and drive myself Arnaudville Elementary. I am not the only one that has to go all the way to Arnaudville Elementary to vote from down here. We have to drive thru Krotz Springs where we have voted all of our lives since we were old enough to vote. I am sort of upset that this went this far and the Parish did not catch this at this point. This was passed in 2019. I could have divided these districts a lot better than what has been done. If you all needed help, I could have helped you all when you all was ready to do it. What we would like to know is, what are you all going to do to fix this problem for our elections that are coming up? This really look like voter suppression to us. We want to see what plans you all have to fix this and get it back the way it was. We do have some ideas if you all need them, when you all are ready to reorganize it. If they needed help, they needed to get local people involved. I think Mr. Hefner is from Duson or Lafayette. I have to take an Air Boat across the Swamp to get to Arnaudville. I don’t know how they figure I should go to Arnaudville to vote when it is 32 miles one way to get there. That makes no sense that I have to drive thru two other

voting areas, Krotz Springs and Port Barre and then go to Arnaudville. I think it would be in your best interest to involve your local people with that. We could have sat down with maps to say this is what we can do and this is what we cannot do. In our area, the best thing you all could have done was to draw a line on Hwy 71 and send 3-Mile Lake to Port Barre and combine Krotz Springs upper and lower together into town. Then you would have eliminated one of your voting spots and we would not have to drive 60 miles round trip to vote.”

- **Chairman Dexter Brown stated**, “That is the reason we have our Demographer, Mr. Mike Hefner to speak on it. I know when the Census Tally comes back, it will shift again.”
- **Ms. Grace Barnes** addressed the council regarding Precinct Redistricting. She stated, “I just recently found out about this because I got a couple of cards in the mail. I went to the Clerk of Court’s Office to question what is going on. They informed me that my voting area has changed. I am concerned because I have been voting on South Street for years. I would like to know why the sudden change and did you all notify the public for our input.”
- **Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated**, “Mr. Hefner will answer all your questions later in the meeting.”
- **Ms. Monika Harper** addressed the council regarding Precinct Redistricting. She stated, “We would prefer to have the polling places moved back to where they were previously. She also requested a copy of the signed ordinance and she requested that it be posted on our website.”
- **Ms. Cheryl Milburn** addressed the council regarding Precinct Redistricting. She stated, “We got a lot of calls from people that were not pleased with this reapportionment and we did not have one thing to do with it. I would like to apologize to the voters. I don’t know if this will be corrected or not. The Registrar of Voters Office cannot do anything with Precincts. Reapportionment comes strictly from the Demographer.”
- **Councilwoman Mildred Thierry** stated, “It seems like the council made this decision for these precinct reapportionments. I specifically remember questioning Mr. Hefner on May 10th. I told him that I was troubled about this because the people need to be informed. I asked if the people would be informed, Mr. Hefner told me yes and we will be a part of the process. I do not feel that I am part of the process. We did not assign these precincts as Councilmembers. I just want that made clear. We are not here to place a blame game, we are here to try and find a solution, so let’s focus on trying to find a solution. I cannot see why someone would have drive thirty miles one way to vote, that is uncalled for. I would appreciate it if we would get some of the voters involved along with other people who have expertise in these areas and the council and we can make the best quality decision.”
- **Ms. Vanessa Harris** addressed the council regarding Precinct Redistricting. She stated, “This is my first time attending a Parish Government Meeting. I just felt that the public could have been more involved. I don’t think that you all realized what the outcome was going to be. I would like to know when could this possibly be rescinded?” I don’t think that this is well taught out.”
- **Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain** stated, “The data from the Census will be in this summer. Once the data is in the precincts and polling places can change one more time. When they do, we will have a certain number of precincts 70-75 and the polling places will be arranged. The polling places as they exist now, the ordinance can be amended to change them back but the ordinance has to be passed 45 days before the election, which may not be in time for any elections in 2021. They will be changed by 2022 in time for those elections. Mr. Hefner, our Demographer can get more specific. Basically these precincts and polling places will change one more time and that is the time to get it right. It will be based on the data from the census that will arrive this summer.”
- **Ms. Lena Charles** addressed the council regarding Precinct Redistricting. She stated, “I remember very clearly that meeting that night and the handouts that was given and published. Mr. Hefner made a presentation and the council asked very good questions. People in the audience thought they were represented very well. I think we were duped, St. Landry Parish was duped. I think the council should rescind the whole thing.”

- **Mr. Gordy Reed** addressed the council regarding Precinct Redistricting. He stated, “This is my first council meeting. It is sad to say that changing my voting precincts is what got me to a council meeting. I hope this is not voter suppression or it is incompetence on someone’s part. I got my notice on Friday and we are here to find out what when wrong. I have to drive to Arnaudville to vote and it does not make any sense. This was a total mistake and it needs to be rescinded.”
- **Mr. Mike Hefner, Demographer** addressed the council. He stated, “I think since a lot of people are just becoming aware of this and I know the council have heard this before, I think it might be good to back up where we were two years ago. This all started two years ago. The parish was notified by the State. They said there were some precinct boundaries that were no longer in Compliance with State Law because they relied on Nonvisual Boundaries. They were going to have some changes in some precinct boundaries to correct that. The secretary of state also said at that same time that they have Legislations that had recently passed that allows Parish Governments to create a set of precincts that would be used for redistricting. I will get to the terminology, because there is a lot of terminology that get mixed up and causes some confusion.
- **Parish President Jessie Bellard** questioned, “Mr. Hefner, before we go too far, in 2019 was it mandatory that the council take action.”
- **Mr. Hefner stated**, “No it was not. I brought that to them as an opportunity but it was not mandatory. About 1/3 of the parishes in state took advantage of it.” **Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “If I am not mistaken, I think most of these councilmembers took it as it had to be done. I think that is where the problem came in 2019.”
- **Mr. Hefner stated**, “Only the Precincts that had the Non Complying Boundaries, they had to change that and that was mandatory. The state was going thru all that preparation for the precinct boundaries to provide to the Census Bureau for the 2020 Census Collection. That had to be done. I brought to you that same opportunity that the Legislation allowed, a set of precincts to be created that would go into effect in 2021. It would be used for redistricting purposes, basically a temporary set of precincts. It would allow you to have a clean set of precincts and get rid of all those small precincts that have 15, 20, 50 or 100 people that was legacy’s from past reapportionments. It cost money, it cost money to have a precinct with 50 as it does to have 1,500. I talked to you about creating this set of precincts back in 2019. This would give us a clean plan to start your redistricting. Redistricting is taking your election district and putting a new census population in and adjusting those boundaries to rebalance your population. You use precincts as your building blocks for your district. You take Precinct A or Precinct 1, 5 or 8 and you combine those together to create a district. Precinct 1,5 and 8 does not quite fit then you split a precinct. This gives us the opportunity to figure out which precinct needs to be split and the best way to split it. At the end of reapportionment you will have a whole new set of precincts. That will go into effect for 2022. In 2019, I don’t think any one of us had heard about COVID. COVID is what has caused this. Normally we start reapportionment at the end of February or March, it would have been this past February or March. If we followed the same schedule that we did in 2011 after the 2010 Census, we would have been finished in June 2021. The new precincts that came out of the reapportionment of the council for the school board would be in place. Those would have been into effect for 2021. At that time, we were being told by the State that 2021 was going to be an Off Election Year. They were not planning on having any election in the fall of 2021, that is what we were told, however the Legislature in their last session decided to put some Constitutional Amendments on that Fall Election. That forced the council to take a temporary set of precincts and use that for an election, which it was never its intent. It was a step in the process, it was not the end of the process. We just got your Census Data this past Thursday. It is almost six months later than what we normally get it. We are six months behind. That is why we are forced to use these temporary precincts for the October Election. We will be getting ready to look at redistricting. You have the memo that I have sent to you. Eleven out of your Thirteen Districts are out of balance. It is about what I have expected. With the population shifting these precincts that are in place now are going to be divided. New polling placing are going to be assigned with the collective input of the people, the clerk, some extent

of the Registrar and yourself. This is temporary, it is for one election. An election that this council did not have any say. No other Parish had it, the Legislature set it. They had several Amendments, some are going on 22 election cycles. I don't understand why they put some on 21 election cycles. If they had not done that, this would not be an issue. I understand that these polling locations and these precincts are not ideal. I am the first one to admit to it. They were never meant to run an election on. We were told that you would never run an election on that. I passed that along to you. We will not be running an election on this, I told you that in 2019 because that is what I was being told. If I had a crystal ball and I could have seen 2 years in the future, I probably would have done something different. This is what we have. COVID caused the delay in the Census Collection and the Census Tabulation. That delay pushed us back six months on getting a plan done. If we did not have that delay, we would have already been finished and we would have had a whole new set of precincts. This would have never been used. The polling location would have been much more convenient with what we are forced to use now. I apologize to you and the voters. I know this is inconvenient. It was never intended to be used for an election. We have to ask you to have patience and understanding, this is going to be for one election. Those of you that are in the basin, we have combined that precinct. It will end up being divided. I have already done some early monitoring on that and we are going to have to split it. Your polling location will probably go back to where you were before. Until the council, the board and the public get together and devise your new plan, we don't know exactly where your new Precincts will be or where the splits will be and we will have to create new Precincts out of those splits, it is done publically. Those of you who were involved after 2010, we had public work sessions where the maps were up, the software was there and it was interactive. You would move a line and see what the numbers would do. After the plan is done and the ordinance comes up, that is usually when the clerk makes a recommendation on the polling places. I normally don't make recommendations on polling places. I do not know your polling places. I know where they are on the map but I do not know which polling place is better than the next. You have to rely on your Parish Officials to make that recommendation to the council. Now back to Mrs. Thierry, in May, I had several things that went out to the council. I understand that the council wanted to make the decisions on the polling places. You had an Excel Work Sheet, it had Precincts for 2021. It showed which one physically had a polling location and which precinct did not physically have a polling location. You had other documents that came and we started whittling that down. I did get some comments from Councilmembers that called and asked can we do this instead of doing that. I would pull it up. My system would calculate road mileage. I did that for every one of those, some are over but a lot of them that I am hearing about these long distances, they are not matching up with what my system is showing, so it sounds like it is an assignment issue. What I am hearing, if I am understanding correctly, it should not be happening on most of these. Ms. Thierry, these things were done at least three meetings between that May meeting and then the June meeting when you all adopted this. I understand this is not something that you deal with regularly and the public does not deal with regularly. I deal with it all the time. I have been doing this for 30 years now. I try to explain it as best as I can. I am more of a visual person. I like throwing up maps, which is what we will do for your redistricting. I am just asking for the patience. I do not want anyone to pass judgement on a project that is not even finished yet. We are at the point where we have the precincts to start reapportionment. We have not done the reapportionment to create the new set of precincts that would be your permanent precincts starting in 2022. That is when your Municipal and School Board Election is coming up and the following year is the Council. You have to realize that you have 92 Precincts. We did reapportionment and you would probably be up to 120 – 125 Precincts by the time we are finished. This is what it would take on the modeling I have been looking at, that is what you would end up with. I think I said that Parish Cost is about \$1,200.00 per Precinct. Now you have 53. I am figuring we will probably end up between 70 and 75 working with the actual data now. That is going to save you 20-25 Precincts. \$1,200.00 times two, (because normal elections you have the primary and the general election) so that

is probably \$60,000.00 per election cycle that this will save you in the long run. Once we are finished with this, I really don't think that any of these voters will be inconvenienced. A lot will return back to their polling place or have one that is closer. There is another factor to keep in mind, remember when the Registrar had to do a Canvas of voters and they came to you, (I started doing this with you all years ago) when you have under 300 active voters, you have to come with that list and determine which of those small precincts you can merge into a neighboring qualifying precincts. If you cannot, they want you to consolidate the polling location. That means you have one location that may have voters coming from two or more precincts, you have several consolidated precincts. It is more efficient. That is what the Secretary of the State wants to see. If you have the opportunity to merge and you do not or you refuse, or if you have an opportunity to consolidate a polling location and you do not want to, then the secretary of the state have you pick up 100% of the cost of that precinct, not only do you pay your Parish share, you pay the State Share also. That is why this council, like a lot of other Parishes, when they have that opportunity to consolidate the polling locations for merger precincts, they will do that. It will make it a lot more efficient and less expensive. You cannot merge some of these because they are in different jurisdictions. That is why we are stuck with many of these small ones. The state use those small precincts in their plans. Besse, Congressional, State Legislative, they take these small Precincts that were in this Parish and divide them up. You have five Representatives in this parish. You do not have enough population to make a difference to that Representative. That part of the parish could vote entirely against him and it probably would not affect him. You do not have a say. The large precincts that we have now went into effect and they have to use them. They cannot cut up your small towns anymore and they cannot cup up your large cities anymore, because they have to use those larger precincts. That will give you a better say in State Government Level as you move forward. There are a lot of things that go into play with this. This is all getting convoluted because we are forced to put an election on with temporary precincts that are less than ideal. I think you will be pleased by the time we finish the redistricting for the council and the school board. A new set of precincts will come out of that. The clerk will be involved in assigning the polling locations. I think everyone will be fine. I am just asking for your patients to take advantage of early voting, absentee voting or going to a poll and having to drive further than you normally have to, just for this one election. It is not electing any Representative Parish Wide."

- **Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned**, "Can you explain a little more about the Alpha Split."
- **Mr. Mike Hefner stated**, "An Alpha Split is usually used when the precinct have a large number of registered voters. There is concern that all of those voters are going to one table, there will be long lines and it will be overwhelming for the commissioners. There is a provision that allows you to divide a precinct by the last name of the voter. In this case, we went to A-L and M-Z. If you are in Precinct 19 and they had an Alpha Split and your last name starts with a 'C', you would go to the same polling location and you would go to that precinct table and vote. Someone that would have the M-Z, they would go to another table at the same precinct. That will allow you to divide the voters between two tables at the same polling locations for that precinct. The discussion that the council had at that time was asking if it was going to be a Constitutional Amendment Election or was it is going to be a lite turn out, typically you are looking at a 10-12 percent turnout. You usually do not get a lot of interest when it is generally the only thing on the ballot. If you had elections for your representative, you will have a higher turnout, something like 10-12. I don't feel that it was necessary to have the Alpha Split at that time."
- **Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated**, "I think that is what we had agreed upon the last time that we had spoken. That would solve a lot of the issues."
- **Mr. Mike Hefner stated**, "Somewhere along the lines there was an impression that was put out that an Alpha Split allows you to have two different polling locations in the same precinct. What I have told you have been consistent. They would go to the same polling location but there are two tables that are divided by A-L and M-Z. You cannot have two separate polling locations. The State Statue

does not allow that. I did try to get that as a consideration from the Secretary of the State back in May. Because of the delays, because of COVID, we have actually done what they have asked us to do, we have some issues here. These people will have to drive a long way. Can we set up two polling locations within a precinct, the answer was absolutely not. We did not get any consideration for that, I did not know if we could. The Alpha does not give you two separate polling locations. I wish it did but feasibly it would not work. For example, you may have Mr. Stelly living on one end of that precinct and he will have to drive all the way over to his polling place, where as you might be living next to Mr. Stelly but your polling place is closer because your last name start with the letter 'C'. You have to divide these precincts up geographically to assign your polling location. You cannot do it by letter. The letter only works for the precinct that is setting up two tables at that polling location."

- **Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "Did we have to be cut 39 Precinct? Out of the State of Louisiana, we took the biggest lick. Most parishes had ten or twelve precincts cuts we had 39. Out of the 39, how many were mandatory by the State?"
- **Mr. Mike Hefner stated,** "None of them were mandatory other than the ones that we had to correct the boundaries on. I think you had about three or four that had some issues with the boundaries."
- **Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "That is my problem. I am not going to ask the council to do anything tonight. I am going to tell you what my plans are for the future. We already have a contract with Mr. Hefner for the reapportionment. I am just going to advise the council that I am not signing any ordinance until I am clear on what is being done. Even if it will cost the parish a few dollars to get it done right the next time. He just finished saying a few things earlier. It is not that I do not believe him or I do not trust him, I do not know him. I know that we are in a predicament that was created at the advice of the professionals and I am looking at him as being a professional to the council. I do not like where we are at and I do not like where we are going. We did not have to cut 39 precincts. We could have cut three or four according to his own words. I am not liking this. We will make people drive 32 miles to go vote when we do not have to. I understand his three-tier plan or whatever his plan is, but right now, I am not looking at that. I am looking at what is best for our parish right now. The next time we will do reapportionment, I am just advising the council that I am not signing off on the ordinance that the parish passes unless I feel comfortable that it is the best thing for the parish just like you all want the best for the parish. I want the people to rest assure that this will not happen again. Just like the gentlemen that lives on the corner of a polling place. He has to drive 32 miles, it may be temporary, but how do you do that logistically, how do you do that to the people. I am upset about this. We are getting the phone calls like everybody else. I think it could have been avoided. I have been talking to the State to try to get a better understanding on what we can and cannot do. The Council is the only body that can change this. This is for sure, that is correct. I think the 45 days that Mr. Garrett Duplechain was talking about, We do not have that opportunity this year, even if we did, I was told that we could not do it this year because the way everything was done. It was all done correctly. Nothing was done against the law. We were questioned about maybe someone filing a lawsuit to turn it around, the State said not to waste your time. All I am saying is the next time, I am not going to sign an Ordinance unless I feel comfortable with it and right now, I do not feel comfortable. We have a contract with Mr. Hefner for Reapportionment. I am not going to sign off on it until I am comfortable with it."
- **Mr. Mike Hefner stated,** "That is certainly what I would expect you to do Mr. Bellard as President of the Parish. That is exactly what I would expect you to do. I would not expect any of these councilmembers to vote for it if they did not understand it. That is why I am here. I have come to many meetings on this issue, this issue alone. Far more than any other of the 13 parishes that I have done this type of work."
- **Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "At no time did you tell the council that they had to cut three or four precincts. What is mandatory and what is done electively is two different things."

- **Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Mr. Hefner, I want to say thank you. You have been here for many years. On June 16th, when you proposed this Ordinance and it was the Alpha Split that you just went over, you well explained that I remember that we would keep the same precincts. It was going to be some tables set up, A-G, G-L, whatever the population would be, I am looking at a situation, Park Vista School. Some people have voted there for umpteen years. People that live right across the street. They walk over there every day or to go vote when it is election time, now, sure they have to go 2 miles extra, they have to go to OHS, but it is just change, people do not like change. Which precincts was not in compliance? Didn’t you tell us that there were some compliance problems on the northern end of the Parish?”
- **Mr. Mike Hefner stated,** “Yes there were some on the northern end in the Eunice area because we were following a Municipal Boundary on some of the Precinct Boundaries. Those are largely Non Visible and they had to be corrected. We were making changes. Also understand, anytime a reapportionment plan is adopted and you have new precincts, polling places do change. Not everybody, but some do, you have that every time.
- **Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “I have been thru three of them with you. I have been here thirty years. I never saw anything like this before where people get very disgruntle. You cannot blame them for getting disgruntle. You are not the only one to blame, we are all to blame in this situation. The Tax Dollars of St. Landry Parish Tax Payers will have to pay for this not once, but twice. Mr. Bellard have five boxes of cards that still have to be mailed out. Each card cost fifty-one cents to be mailed. That is a lot of money. I can remember when we got a letter from the Clerk of Court. It was sort of a nasty letter stating that we did not want to pay for all of the people that would come and take care of the election. My whole thing, people want to vote, that is their right that they have. If it cost more money, I will be the first one to vote as a councilmember to continue having enough precincts here.”
- **Mr. Mike Hefner stated,** “Everybody wants to look at this in the lens as to what is happening today. You have to back up to the lens of what is happening in 2019. If it had gone as we taught and we did not have COVID delays, you would have already have a new set of precincts in place because you would have finished your reapportionment. That would have gone into 2021. You would have sent those cards out once. If it was not for the State putting Constitutional Amendments on there, you would not have had to do some of this. We would have had a lot of this stuff finished. Now we are delayed, I am hoping between now and the end of the year or the first part of next year, we will have the plans done. This will go into effect for 2022. I think once you see it, and I know you have been thru the process, you would recall how it is set up and you can see how it works. I have your polling locations on there, so when it comes time to get settle on the plan, we know what precincts are there, then we can all collectively give their input where they want the polling location. It does not matter to me. It matters to them and it matters to you. I am here to give you advice. If you pull it up here, I can do the road miles. It is twelve miles to that one and it is six miles to this one, which one do you prefer? Those are the decision that we would be making as part of this process. I want to reiterate, this is all a very public process. I do this more publicly than any Demographer that does this work in this state. I am the only one that does this in public. I hook up my software and we work on it in public. Anybody can get up there and ask what happens if you move the line for the district from here to here. It will show you what the numbers are, it will show if it fits. If you all want to keep it, it is a yes or a no. If you do not want to keep it, all we have to do is back it out. At some point, we will know what our district boundaries will be, we will know how the precincts are divided and we will create those new precincts. Then we will decide what polling places you want. I do not get involved necessarily with it. I write it into the ordinance when I am told this is where we want the polling location to be. The ones that we used here are the ones that are most central to the precincts that it was going to serve. I am still a little confused at what I am hearing from those people that are having to drive 20-30 miles. I know Mr. Taylor has some that have to drive further. There is no question. I lost a lot sleep over that. I would be more than happy to measure the mileage to see if they are assigned to the correct precinct.”

- **Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “Let’s talk about the assignment. Would you expound on that. Who makes that assignment?”
- **Mr. Mike Hefner stated,** “I don’t get involved in making up the cards. That is what the Registrar of Voters do.”
- **Councilman Harold Taylor questioned,** “What is the criteria to do that? What does she have to go thru?”
- **Mr. Mike Hefner stated,** “They have what they call an Address Ranges. Those Address Ranges will fall within certain precincts, certain districts and certain jurisdictions. The Aaron Voter Data Base System will take that assignment and a card is printed and mailed out. If a voter is placed in the wrong precinct, for example, they may be in precinct 37 but they may have been inadvertently assigned to precinct 32. That will tell them that they have to go to another polling location further away. If they are in the right polling location, they may only have to go six miles. Those are the kind of things I don’t get involved in but I do work as closely as I can with the Registrar of Voters, The Clerks and the Secretary of the State to make sure that they have all the information that I can give them so they can properly assign the voters to the correct precinct, district and any other jurisdiction. If there is errors in there, I cannot tell you that unless I Geocode every voter in the Parish and them pull it up. I can do it individually. Mr. Taylor gave me one that he had a question on. It was an error in the precinct assignment. Those things happen. In proper precinct, they were driving much shorter than what they taught he had. I am wondering if some of these may be the same issue.”
- **Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated,** “Mr. Hefner, something you said earlier. You said that you gave us documentation. You did, but nowhere on either one of those documents that you gave us indicated that you would have someone driving 20 miles or 30 miles. We had no knowledge of this.”
- **Mr. Mike Hefner stated,** “I did not have any knowledge either. I measured every one of those polling locations from the farthest point of the precinct. Mr. Taylor’s precinct had some issues because it is so rural. In most parishes, the Clerk is the one that recommend the polling location to the Parish Governing Authority. The Parish Governing Authority can accept it, modify it or reject it. You have the ultimate say in your precinct boundaries and your polling locations. You are in charge. State Wide, that is where that power vest. Almost all of them rely on recommendations. You rely on my recommendations. If I had to foresee what happened here, Mr. Bellard, we would not have done 39, we would have probably done 20. If I would of had the inkling that they were going to run an election on these. I was fairly aggressive because I knew we were going to have a lot of adjustments to make. In some areas, the Registrar get pretty involved, some areas the clerk does it all themselves and for other parishes, it is a Collaboration between the two. It normally comes as a recommendation. Some of you run your campaign, you have an idea on polling locations as well. I have gotten input from the council on these polling locations. We made a couple of changes because it was more convenient and it fit the mileage, I am good with it. I hear from the Registrar, the Clerk and other parishes that some polling locations are more suited than others. Some are small, some may not have many electrical outlets, some have very poor heating and air conditioning, some have very limited parking or limited handicapped access. As far here, we did try to consolidate precincts at certain polling locations. That is why you had the change at Park Vista. That is why we had to send them to vote at Opelousas Senior High. I did not think it was going to be a big issue. That precinct probably will be going back to Park Vista because we have a lot of adjustments to make in the Opelousas area.”
- **Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “I hope that it does because it has been there for so many years. I agree, we have some polling places that do not meet the criteria as far as cleanliness, ramps and some that need to just be taken off the books. But what it is, the location still gets paid, am I correct?”
- **Mr. Mike Hefner stated,** “That is correct.”
- **Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “It is all about the all Mighty Dollar.”
- **Mr. Mike Hefner stated,** “In some cases, yes. We had one parish that had a lot of leased location. We were able to eliminate nine of ten of the leased location because they were usually in poor shape and they did not maintain the building in

between elections. Any repairs that needed to be done, the parish had to pay for those repairs on private property because they were leasing it.”

- **Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “I understand this is only temporary for this election that is coming up in the fall. Can you guarantee the people that have to drive 30 plus miles, the people that have to drive to Palmetto, and the people who have to walk across the street, that they will not have to drive five miles across the city to go a church to vote when they normally walk across the street and their polling location will be the same place.”
- **Mr. Hefner stated,** “In all likely hood it can be, but I can not guarantee it until we actually do the redistricting and work on what your boundaries. Then we will know what your precincts will be. You will have that opportunity to weigh in on that.”
- **Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “My main reason for saying this, these polling places have been like that for years. This council have not once voted to make any kind of changes to those precincts. We want our people to make sure that they are comfortable with where they are going to vote. One of the things that I have stressed in this meeting, The Demographer and the Clerk of Court who failed to speak up in the meeting, as well as the Registrar of Voters, do not have to point the finger at the council or anybody else. This should be a working relationship, not to point the finger because we all have to work together. Regardless of what the problem is, we have to solve it. When my constituents call me, I want to make sure that we do what is best for each and every last one of them.”
- **Mr. Mike Hefner stated,** “You will have that hands on opportunity”
- **Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “Trust me, I have been in it before. I will voice my concern for my constituents and I will do it again.”
- **Ms. Cheryl Milburn, Director of Registrar of Voters addressed the council. She stated,** “The Registrar of Voters Office cannot pick polling places. We have nothing to do with polling places. That comes from the Secretary of the State. People think we picked those precincts. We cannot do it at the Registrar’s Office. I just want to clarify that.”
- **Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “That is one thing I have never said. I never said you picked any voting places or whatever. I said we are not suppose to point fingers at the different entities. The Clerk of Court, the Registrar of Voters, the Council or the Demographer. We all have to work together to get this done.”
- **Ms. Cheryl Milburn stated,** “We got scrutinized last Wednesday, people were thinking that we made those changes.”
- **Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “There is only one entity that voted and that is this Parish Council.”
- **Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “I want to express my deepest congratulations for everyone coming here and making their point. Mr. Red, you are absolutely correct, the buck stops here. We made those decisions. We made it on the best information that we had in 2019 and 2020. I can only apologize. When I saw that, I called Mr. Hefner. I told him that we have a problem. Those folks that are on the lower end of Krotz Springs will have to drive to Arnaudville. I do not know if there if anything that we can do at this time.”
- **Mr. Mike Hefner stated,** “We are pretty much locked in.”
- **Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “All I can say is that we are sorry and I am sorry. It was never meant to be like that. I will tell you that we will get it right this Fall. We were told that there were no elections in the Fall. Now we have an election and we have to deal with it. If there are ten of you here, one to two of you all will go to the polls and vote, the others will not. That is the average, about 10-12%. I know that it is inconvenient; I even went to the Parish President to see if we could fixed this and he said we cannot. I have been in this political arena since I was 22. It will be 50 years this year and I can only apologize. I am not making excuses, I voted for this, I taught it was the right thing to do and it turned out different from the way we expected. I will assure you that you will be involved. We will have Public Hearings on this. I will ask our Clerk to get the names and address of everyone that spoke. We will send you a notice that we are having a hearing on this. All we can do is do what we can do.”

- **Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “There is no excuse. I did try to change it this when it was discovered. It was brought to my attention in 2019 that I had voted for this. When I spoke to several people, I told them I was going to try to fix this as best as I can. I can only assure you that I will do everything in my power to make this right so that the voters will be satisfied.”
- **Mr. Hefner stated,** “Ms. Carriere, I have done this parish since the 1990 Census Cycle. I have a pretty good feeling for the Parish. I do a lot of work with the School System on their student assignments. I generally feel that everything will fall into place once we do this final step. All of this was a preparation to do your redistricting and to be able to have a clean set of Precincts at the end that saves the parish money but does not inconvenience voters. The will have cleaner boundary lines so people will know where their districts are. You will not have confusion at the polls. If I did not feel that this was the case, I would not have made many changes at all but I do believe that we can come up with a much better election plan than what you have had in recent history. The voters will not be inconvenience with that, but they are inconvenienced now. These were never supposed to be used for an election, we were told that in 2019. I took them at their word because we did not know about a pandemic. If we would have gotten our data in time, this would have been a non-issue. All of this would have been done and finished and nobody would have been inconvenienced, let them have the Constitutional Amendments.”
- **Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated,** “I just want to thank you for coming and explaining all of this to the people. We took a lot of heat for this and we are wrong.”
- **Mr. Mike Hefner stated,** “I apologize to the voters that are inconvenienced. This was never the intent. These things are outside of our control. We just have to do the best that we can. I really worked hard to maintain a reputation drawing good efficient election plans in precincts. I think you will find the same thing this time. I think the voters will be pleased with it. When we have these public work sessions, you all will be invited to participate. Just to clarify, the precincts are not redistricting. This is not the redistricting part. The redistricting part is when we are dealing with their election district, a district which is made up of precincts. They are related but a little different terminology. Many people make a mistake and call polling places, precincts, but the correct terminology is that your precinct goes to that polling location to vote. A lot of confusion comes from a misuse of the terminology.”
- **Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “I have noticed in District 1, it is showing there is a deviation of 461 people. In the Westgate Subdivision, we have at least 150 new homes. I don’t believe that the numbers are accurate.”
- **Mr. Mike Hefner stated,** “Keep in mind that the numbers that you see here are people that responded to the Census. If someone did not respond to the Census, they are not counted in those numbers. That is why we have meetings that implore people to respond to their Census. If you do not respond, then you are not counted. This is where some of this comes in. St. Landry Parish response rate from the Census in 2020 was 55.4%. In 2010, you had a 57.3% response rate. Certain areas of the parish may have a lower response rate than other parts of the parish. That will affect your district. We have to use Census Numbers. It is filed by State and Federal Law that the Voting Rights Act specifies that we have to use this file. You will have an Ordinance coming out soon for introduction.”
- **Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “Mr. Hefner, we would like to thank you for coming out and assisting us. I want to apologize to the constituents. We made a decision in 2019 to try to save the parish some money when it came down to reducing voting precincts. We are going to do everything in our power and legal boundaries to get it back or close to normal as possible. Please bear with us for this election. When 2022 comes around, we will try to bring it back as close to normal as we can.”

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to approve the **Regular Meeting Minutes of July 21st, 2021** as transcribed.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly and Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Wayne Ardoin to approve the **Special Meeting Minutes of July 22nd, 2021** as transcribed.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly and Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.

VII. PARISH PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- **Update on Adjudicated Property in the Parish**

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The Adjudicated property sale of the 13 properties will be at the next Regular Meeting held in September. We did not have the Blighted property on the Agenda. The individuals was given notice to come tonight to show cause as to why we should not tear down or clean up the property. We had three that we sent out letters for and one of them is in the process of being cleaned up. The first one I have is Parcel No. 0604097800 – Mr. Kirk Tate, HWY 190. It is the property that is located next to Miller's BBQ in Lawtell. If there is anyone here to show cause, please do so, if not I will ask the council to go with the next process which is to tear down the property and clean it up.

A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to authorize the Parish President to tear down and clean the property belonging to Mr. Kirk Tate, HWY 190. Parcel Number 0604097800.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Harold Taylor and Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The next piece of property that needs to be cleaned up is Parcel Number 01048145008 - Martin Dale Richard. Hwy 104. It is a burnt down house that have been there for years.

A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to authorize the Parish President to tear down and clean the property belonging to Mr. Martin Dale Richard, Hwy 104. Parcel Number 01048145008.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Harold Taylor and Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.

- **Update on the Public Works Report**

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The next item I have is related to the Court Annex Building across the street. As you all may know we had to do some repairs. The estimate came in at \$349,200.00 to do the job. The recommendation came from our Architect, Mr. Ardoin, whom advised us to take the bid. I have presented you with a tabulation sheet of all the bidders. I am asking the council to allow me to sign the contract to start this process."

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier to authorize the Parish President to sign the Contract with ARL Construction Company in the amount of \$349,200.00 to do repairs the Court Annex Building.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “There is a Service Order that is an agreement with Conterra Networks. This contract will provide Fiber to the Courthouse and Community Action. The Parish Government will be on its own server. Community Action will send a signal to the Animal Control and the Airport. The Yambilee and Public Works will be on their own Fiber. This will take us completely off that Server that we have been on for the last few years and we will go back on our own. It is a savings of \$1,000.00 per month.”

A motion was made by Councilman Easton Shelvin, seconded by Councilman Harold Taylor to authorize the Parish President to sign the contract with Conterra Networks. On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.

- **Phase 5 Smooth Ride Home**

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Phase 5 of the Smooth Ride Home is underway at this time. They started overlaying on some of the roads yesterday including Dry Bayou Road. They will do extra work on Nursing Home Road and they will be on this end of the parish within the next couple of weeks. Mr. Red requested the cost for the Finance Department. In your packet there should be a spread sheet with the cost for the Finance Department.”

- **Quarterly Report on Adjudicated Property Funds**

Parish President Jessie Bellard presented the council with a spread sheet on the Quarterly Report on Adjudicated Property Fund.

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to accept the Parish President’s Report.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

***Items passed through committee.**

1. A Proclamation to Honor Retired Deputy Anthony Robert Jr.

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to authorize the Chairman to present a Proclamation of Honor to Retired Deputy Anthony Robert Jr.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.

2. Approval of Mr. Steve Moosa’s Audit Report from the July 7th, 2021 Administrative Finance Committee Meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Councilman Wayne Ardoin to approve Mr. Steve Moosa’s Audit Report from July 7th, 2021 Administrative Finance Committee Meeting.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Vivian Olivier and Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.

3. Vote to re-appoint Willie Butch Haynes, III and Audrey M. White to the St. Landry Parish Housing Authority for a five-year term. (08-17-2021 – 08-17-2026).

A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to re-appoint Willie Butch Haynes, III and Audrey M. White to the St. Landry Parish Housing Authority for a five-year term. (8-17-2021 – 08-17-2026).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Vivian Olivier and Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.

4. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment for a one-year term to Fire District No. 7. (09-19-2021 – 09-19-2022).
A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment for a one-year term to Fire District No. 7. (09-19-2021 – 09-19-2022).
On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Vivian Olivier and Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.
5. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment for the remainder of a three-year term expiring on 02-19-2022 to the St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission. (02-19-2019 – 02-19-2022).
A motion was made by Councilman Easton Shelvin seconded by Councilman Harold Taylor to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment for the remainder of a three-year term expiring on 02-19-2022 to the St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission. (02-19-2019 – 02-19-2022).
On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Vivian Olivier and Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.
6. Authorize the Parish President to sign the Louisiana Workforce Commission Agreement Effective thru June 30, 2023.
A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to authorize the Parish President to sign the Louisiana Workforce Commission Agreement Effective thru June 30, 2023.
On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Vivian Olivier and Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.
7. Authorize the Parish President to sign the contract with Bihm Construction Company Inc; for the Waterworks District No. 3. Recommended by Morgan Goudeau & Associates based on the bid tabulations.
A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to authorize the Parish President to sign the contract with Bihm Construction Company Inc; for the Waterworks District No. 3. Recommended by Morgan Goudeau & Associates based on the bid tabulations.
On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Vivian Olivier and Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.
8. Authorize the Parish President to sign the Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Veteran's Affairs.
A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to authorize the Parish President to sign the Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Veteran's Affairs.
On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.

9. Authorize a Permit Exemption Fee for Mr. Daniel Clark, 447 Paul Pickens Road, Palmetto, LA. A house fire destroyed his home on February 27, 2021. A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to authorize a Permit Exemption Fee for Mr. Daniel Clark, 447 Paul Pickens Road, Palmetto, LA A house fire destroyed his home on February 27, 2021. On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.
10. Authorize the Parish President enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Ward 1 South Gravity Drainage District No. 1 and Prairie Basse Gravity Drainage District in a project on the end of Suzanne Dejean Drive. An outfall improvement Drainage Issue. Job No. D123.81 as per Morgan Goudeau & Associates. A cost of \$29,260.00 that will be shared between three entities. Parish Government, Ward 1 South Gravity Drainage and Prairie Basse Gravity Drainage District No. 15. Each Entity will pay \$9,753.34. A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Harold Taylor to authorize the Parish President to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Ward 1 South Gravity Drainage District No. 1 and Prairie Basse Gravity Drainage District in a project on the end of Suzanne Dejean Drive. An outfall improvement Drainage Issue. Job No. D123.81 as per Morgan Goudeau & Associates. A cost of \$29,260.00 that will be shared between three entities. Parish Government, Ward 1 South Gravity Drainage and Prairie Basse Gravity Drainage District No. 15. Each Entity will pay \$9,753.34. On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.
11. Authorize the Parish President to sign the Entity/State Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to authorize the Parish President to sign the Entity/State Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.
12. Authorize the Council Clerk to write a letter to invite Mr. Richard LeBouef, Executive Director, Solid Waste to address the council regarding any updates on garbage pickup in the parish.
No Action taken, Mr. Richard LeBouef addressed the council earlier in the meeting.

IX. SPECIAL BUSINESS:

*Items not passed through committee.
None.

X. ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED:

- **ORDINANCE NO. 2021-015 (Sponsored by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier.)**
A TECHNICAL CORRECTION ORDINANCE CORRECTING THE POLLING LOCATION FOR PRECINCTS 36 AND 37 AND PROVIDING FURTHER WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, on June 29, 2021, the St. Landry Parish Council adopted Ordinance No. 2021-008 which set the polling location for Precincts 36 and 37 at the Grand Coteau Fire Hall, and:
WHEREAS, on May 17, 2017, the St. Landry Parish Council had previously adopted Ordinance No. 2017-005 which changed the polling location from the Grand Coteau Fire Station located at 442 MLK Dr. to the Grand Coteau City Hall located at 231 Burleigh Lane in Grand Coteau, and:

WHEREAS, this technical correction ordinance is required to maintain consistency in the established official polling locations in Grand Coteau and the assignment to the appropriate precincts,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the St. Landry Parish Council, that the polling location for Precincts 36 and 37 be corrected to reflect the correct assignment to the Grand Coteau City Hall, located at 231 Burleigh Lane in Grand Coteau.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the St. Landry Parish Council and approval by the Parish President in accordance with the St. Landry Parish Home Rule Charter.

XI. ORDINANCES TO BE ADOPTED:

• **ORDINANCE NO. 2021-012 (Sponsored by Councilman Coby Clavier)**

A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry To Adopt **Ordinance No. 2021-012.**

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 36-11 OF CHAPTER 36 OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROHIBIT CAUSING DAMAGE TO PUBLIC ROADS IN ST. LANDRY PARISH

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 1-06 of the St. Landry Parish Home Rule Charter states that the parish government shall have the power to pass all ordinances necessary to promote, protect, and preserve the general welfare, safety, health, peace, and orderly conduct of the parish, and this includes the power to pass ordinances on all subject matters not inconsistent with the constitution or denied by state law;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT SECTION 36-11 OF CHAPTER 36 OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES SHALL BE AMENDED AND NOW READ AS FOLLOWS:

SEC. 36-11. – PROHIBITION AGAINST DAMAGING PUBLIC ROADS

a.No person shall cause damage to any public road in St. Landry Parish.

b.No person shall cause a public road in St. Landry Parish to become difficult to drive on by mud riding on said public road.

c.No person shall load or unload any machinery, freight, commodity, timber or other movable property into or out of a truck, sugar cane loader, or any other conveyance of any kind whatsoever on any public road or public road right-of-way in St. Landry Parish when such loading or unloading damages a public road or public road right-of-way.

d. Whoever violates any section of this ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned for not more than thirty days, or both.

• **ORDINANCE NO. 2021-013 (Sponsored by Councilman Jerry Red Jr.)**

A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to Adopt **Ordinance No. 2021- 013.**

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES TO AMEND SECTION 36-137 STREETS AND ROADS THAT HAVE SPEED BUMPS INSTALLED TO INCLUDE:

43. Charles Burr Lane from 6th Street to Wisdom Road, Council District No. 1.

XII. RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED:

RESOLUTION NO. 012 of 2021

A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere to Adopt **Resolution No. 012 of 2021.**

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.

A RESOLUTION GRANTING AUTHORITY TO TAKE PRELIMINARY APPROVAL RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE, SALE AND DELIVERY OF NOT EXCEEDING \$28,525,000 TAXABLE SALES TAX REVENUE REFUNDING BONDS, IN ONE OR MORE SERIES, ROAD DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE PARISH OF ST. LANDRY, STATE OF LOUISIANA, ALL IN THE MANNER PROVIDED FOR BY LAW; MAKING APPLICATION TO THE STATE BOND COMMISSION FOR APPROVAL; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

WHEREAS, the Road District No. 1 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (**the "Issuer"**) governed by the St. Landry Parish Government (**the "Governing Authority"**) has previously issued Sales Tax Revenue Bonds, Series 2014 described herein (**the "Prior Bonds"**); and

WHEREAS, the Issuer desires to refund certain maturities of the Prior Bonds maturing in years 2025 through 2029 (**the "Refunding"**) pursuant to the Louisiana Consolidated Local Government Indebtedness Act, Title 39, Subtitle II, Chapter 4, and particularly Section 523 regarding sales tax bonds and Section 531 regarding refunding bonds of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 (collectively, **the "Refunding Act"**), as amended, and other applicable constitutional and statutory authority, through the issuance of refunding bonds; and

WHEREAS, after refunding certain maturities of the Prior Bonds, the only remaining and outstanding bonds secured by the Net Revenues of the Tax (as defined herein) shall be the Sales Tax Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2021, being issued herein and any remaining maturities of the Prior Bonds not refunded with the Bonds (as defined below); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Refunding Act and subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission, the Issuer desires to accomplish the refunding through the issuance of not exceeding \$28,525,000 aggregate amount of Taxable Sales Tax Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2021, in one or more series (collectively, **the "Bonds"**), to be payable as provided herein and in accordance with the Refunding Act; and

WHEREAS, the Issuer adopts this Resolution to provide for the approval of the issuance of the Bonds for the purposes of funding (i) the prepayment and refunding of certain maturities of the Prior Bonds maturing in years 2025 through 2029, (ii) a debt service reserve fund, if necessary and (iii) the cost of issuance of the Bonds; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority desires to make formal application to the State Bond Commission (**the "Commission"**) for approval of the Bonds, and the employment of Bond Counsel, Underwriter/Placement Agent, and Municipal Advisor;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Authority of the Issuer, that:
SECTION 1. Application. Application be and the same is hereby formally made to the State Bond Commission, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for consent and authority to issue not exceeding \$28,525,000 Taxable Sales Tax Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2021 (or other such year if the Bonds are not issued in 2021) in one or more series, at a rate not exceeding five percent (5.00%) per annum, to mature not later than March 1, 2029 all in the manner provided for by the Refunding Act.

SECTION 2. Refunded Bonds. The Prior Bonds of the Issuer to be refunded (**the "Refunded Bonds"**) shall include all or a portion of the following:

NAME AND SERIES MATURITIES OUTSTANDING BALANCE (as of March 1, 2021)
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL DATED Sales Tax Revenue Bonds, Series 2014 March 1, 2025 through and including March 1, 2029 \$20,845,000 \$62,500,000 3/18/2014

SECTION 3. Security for the Bonds. The Bonds issued to refund the Refunded Bonds shall be limited and special revenue bonds of the Issuer, secured by and payable in principal, interest and redemption premium, if any, solely from an irrevocable pledge and dedication of the avails or proceeds of the two percent (2%) sales and use tax authorized to be levied and collected by the District for a period of fifteen years beginning January 1, 2014 and ending no later than December 31, 2028, pursuant to an election held on October 19, 2013 (**the "Tax"**), subject only to the prior payment of the reasonable and necessary costs and expenses of collecting and administering the Tax (**the "Net Revenues of the Tax"**). The Bonds shall not be a charge on the other income and revenues of the Issuer as prohibited under the provisions of Article VI, Section 37 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, nor shall they constitute an

indebtedness or pledge of the general credit of the Issuer. The Bonds will be issued on parity with any Prior Bonds not refunded by the Bonds. The Bonds shall be of such series, mature not later than March 1, 2029, bear interest at such rate or rates not five percent (5.00%) per annum, be sold at such price or prices, be in such denomination or denominations, carry such registration privileges, be payable in such medium of payment and at such place or places, be subject to such terms of redemption and be entitled to such priorities on the Net Revenues of the Tax described herein as the Issuer may provide by ordinance(s) adopted at the time or times of issuance of the Bonds. Additional details of the Bonds will be set forth by subsequent ordinance adopted by this Governing Authority.

SECTION 4. Purpose. The Bonds are authorized to be issued for the purposes of funding (i) the prepayment and refunding certain maturities of the Prior Bonds maturing in years 2025 through 2029; (ii) a debt service reserve fund, if necessary; and (iii) the costs of issuance of the Bonds.

SECTION 5. Bond Counsel. It is hereby recognized, found and determined that a real necessity exists for the employment of Bond Counsel in connection with the issuance of Bonds, and MAHTOOK & LAFLEUR, New Orleans, Louisiana ("Bond Counsel"), is hereby employed as special bond counsel of the Issuer to do and perform comprehensive legal analysis and coordinate professional work with respect to the issuance of the Bonds of the Issuer for the purpose stated herein. Bond Counsel shall advise the Issuer as to the issuance and sale of the Bonds and furnish their opinion covering the legality of the issuance thereof and other documents pertaining to the sale, issuance and delivery of the Bonds. The fee to be paid to Bond Counsel in connection with this program of finance be and the same is hereby established and fixed at a sum not exceeding the maximum fee allowed by the Attorney General's fee schedule for comprehensive, legal and coordinate professional work in the issuance of revenue bonds, based on the amount of said Bonds actually issued, sold, delivered and paid for, plus "out-of-pocket" expenses, said fee to be contingent upon the issuance, sale and delivery of said Bonds. A certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana for his approval of the employment herein provided for.

SECTION 6. Underwriter/Placement Agent. The Issuer hereby appoints CREWS AND ASSOCIATES, INC., Little, Rock, Arkansas as Underwriter/Placement Agent in connection with the Bonds. Any compensation to the Underwriter/Placement Agent is to be approved by the Louisiana State Bond Commission and by the Governing Authority and to be paid from the proceeds of the Bonds and contingent upon the issuance of the Bonds; provided that no compensation shall be due to said Underwriter/Placement Agent unless the Bonds are sold and delivered, and all costs must be reasonable and approved by the Louisiana State Bond Commission and the Governing Authority

SECTION 7. Employment of Municipal Advisor. The Issuer hereby retains SISUNG SECURITIES CORPORATION, New Orleans, Louisiana to act as its Independent Registered Municipal Advisor ("IRMA") pursuant to the provisions of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and the Final Rule adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commissioners on September 20, 2013 and the adopted final release for the purpose of providing advice on structure, timing, terms and other matters relating to the Bonds, upon which the Issuer may rely. The fee for such services shall be payable solely from the proceeds of the Bonds and not exceed 0.40% of the amount Bonds actually issued, sold, delivered and paid for.

SECTION 8. SBC Swap Policy. By virtue of Issuer's application for, acceptance and utilization of the benefits of the Louisiana State Bond Commission's approvals) resolved and set forth herein, it resolves that it understands and agrees that such approvals) are expressly conditioned upon, and it further resolved that it understands, agrees and binds itself, its successors and assigns to, full and continuing compliance with the "State Bond Commission Policy on Approval of Proposed Use of Swaps, or other forms of Derivative Products Hedges, Etc.", adopted by the Commission on July 20, 2006, as to the borrowing(s) and other matters) subject to the approvals), including subsequent application and approval under said Policy of the implementation or use of any swap(s) or other produces) or enhancements) covered thereby.

SECTION 9. Terminology. For purposes of meeting the requirements of the May 11, 2009, memorandum of the Director of the State Bond Commission to all bond counsel, any proceedings of the Issuer relating to the Bonds that refers to a principal amount or interest rate of the Bonds shall be deemed to include the words "not to exceed" or "not exceeding" whether so stated or not, and any reference to a final maturity date or term contained herein shall be deemed to include the words "to mature on or before" whether so stated or not.

SECTION 10. Signatures Electronic Signatures. The Issuer, the Governing Authority and Bond Counsel consent and agree herein to the execution of documents by electronic signature in accordance with the Louisiana Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (La. Rev. Statutes 9§2601, et seq.), and documents executed electronically by the representatives of the Issuer, the Governing Authority and Bond Counsel as provided for herein are deemed binding and legal on all parties to the extent allowed by the provisions of that Act.

SECTION 11. State Bond Commission. Application is hereby made to the Louisiana State Bond Commission, Baton Rouge, Louisiana for its consent and authority for the Issuer to incur debt and borrow funds.

SECTION 12. Authorized Representatives. The Chairman and Clerk of the Governing Authority are hereby authorized to do all things necessary, on the advice of Bond Counsel, Issuer's Counsel and the Municipal Advisor to the Issuer, to effectuate and implement this resolution, including the publication and recordation hereof as may be required the Refunding Act.

SECTION 13. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption hereof.

SECTION 14. Conflicting Resolutions. All other resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

XIII. COMMITTEE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to accept the **Administrative Finance** Committee Meeting Minutes from Wednesday, August 4th, 2021 as transcribed.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.

A motion was made by Councilman Easton Shelvin, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to accept the **Public Works** Committee Meeting Minutes from Wednesday, August 4th, 2021 as transcribed.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.

XIV. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to adjourn the Regular Meeting.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Timmy Lejeune. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of August, 2021.

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