

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL  
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021  
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.  
OPELOUSAS, LA**

**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. **Roll Call:** Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier and Timmy Lejeune. **Ex-Officio** Dexter Brown. **ABSENT:** None.
3. Person to address the Committee:  
No one was present to address the Council.
4. Parish President & Finance Reports:

**a. July Budget to Actual Report**

Finance Director Amanda Cain presented her July Budget to Actual Report to the Council. She stated:

**General Fund Revenue:** \$3,784,198.20

**General Fund Expenses:** \$3,674,319.00

**Net Income:** \$109,879.20

**Road and Bridge Fund:** \$2,318,399.13

**Road and Bridge Expenses:** \$2,519,756.22

**Net Income Loss :** -\$201,357.09

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned if the loss is part of the CSLED project that the Parish Government have not been reimbursed on. Finance Director, Amanda Cain stated, “No, that is taken into consideration, this is mainly from the equipment and the vehicle purchases. Councilman Harold Taylor asked the Finance Director is she was comfortable with the net loss figures. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Today we got the check from Evangeline Downs which was supposed to be for July. It will not show on these numbers. The Racino is always one – two months behind.”

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned the amount of the check from the Racino. Finance Director Amanda Cain stated, “It used to be \$200,000.00 but now it is about \$150,000.00.” Councilman Harold Taylor question the Finance Director if she was comfortable with the numbers. Finance Director Amanda Cain stated, “Am I comfortable with the budget, yes because we know that we have some array money that I have not taken into consideration.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned if we will be about \$50,000.00 behind in July after the Racino funds are posted? Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No, by the end of the year, we will be on point. It is a matter of timing on how the money will start coming in. We also have our Parish Transportation money that did not come in. By the end of the year, it will all be even out.”

**Health Unit Fund:** \$1,615,425.76

**Health Unit Expenses:** \$1,246,686.89

**Net Income:** \$368,738.87

**Jail Revenue:** \$681,145.32

**Jail Expenses:** \$441,292.18

**Net Income:** \$239,853.14

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We had a structure engineer come out last week. We thought we had a problem with the foundation but it is sound and we can proceed with our additions whenever the time is right. It is a process and we will have to bid it out. I was holding up until the engineer would come and make sure that we were good and his report stated that we are good to go. I will furnish you all a copy of the engineer’s report.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned,** “Mr. Bellard, when do you expect this process and the construction to be completed?” Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We were told one year after we award the bid. On the Jail Annex, we will be able to start next week on that. I have to sign the notice to proceed tomorrow and it will be completed in the next three months.

**Councilman Coby Clavier questioned,** “What does the Jail Annex involve?” Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We had to gut it all out because of the mold that was inside. That is what we approved last month to award it to the bidder. Now it is a matter of doing a notice to proceed. The architects have approved everything and they are good to go.”

**Airport Fund (146):** \$308,501.88

**Expense:** \$355,013.26

**Net Income Loss:** \$-46,511.38

Finance Director Amanda Cain stated they are awaiting more CARES money to come into for the Airport.

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned,** “Are the new Hangers successful in bringing funding to the Airport?” Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We have not done anything yet on the new hangers. We would like to but I am hoping that we get money from Capital Outlay. We thought ARA would be able to help us but that will not happen. All of the Hanger Spaces are occupied.

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned,** “Why is there a loss at the Airport? The loss is just a matter of time from money coming in. We have funding coming in from ARA, the CARES Act and there is a lot of fuel in the Tanks to be sold.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned,** “What is the status of that Large Hanger where that Jet was parked, did we receive any money from that company?” Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I think we were short \$5,000.00 on the actual contract. Nothing was received, the Airplane fueled up and left and did not pay what was owed on the remainder of the contract. I would like to take legal action but it will be a little problem with it. Garrett and I have been discussing it.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “As I recall, there was no signed contract. The plane was owned by a law firm from New Orleans. We had no signed contract from the other side. That leaves us empty handed. We could examine it a little closer to see if there is anything else that we can do. Last I recall those were the facts.”

**Bobby Ardoin, Editor of the Daily World stated,** “A couple of months ago I did a story on that Jet Plane. I talked to the lead attorney for the law firm that Mr. Duplechain had referred. He sent me all of the invoices that were paid to the Parish Government. According to the invoices, he was paid up. Like Mr. Duplechain stated, there was no contract signed between the parish and the owner of the jet. I have a friend who is embedded in the State Federal Aeronautics Board. I gave him the tale number and the registration number of the plane. He said the last he heard it was Hangered in Salt Lake City. Occasionally it made trips back to the state. I just want to make it a little bit clearer. It is up to you all to decide whether there is anything legal to do about it. According to the invoices and the lawyer that I spoke with over the telephone, I don’t think there is anything that you guys can do.”

**Road District 12 of Ward 2 Fund (26)**

**Total Income:** \$257,923.26

**Expenses:** \$290,751.82

**Net Loss:** \$-32,828.56

**Cash Balance at the end of June: \$143,894.88**

**Councilman Harold Taylor questioned** if more taxes will come in to cover that loss.

**Finance Director Amanda Cain stated,** “We will amend the budget to capture that loss. We have the money, we did not overspend cash, we have it. We are spending some of the reserve that we have in that fund. When I amend the budget, I will amend the expenditure column to reflect what we actually spent.

**Road District 1 of Ward 3 Fund (27)**

**Total Income:** \$345,389.84

**Expenses:** \$517,858.35

**Net Loss:** \$-172,468.51

**Cash Balance at the end of July: \$109,190.57**

**Sub Rd District 2 of Rd District 11A Ward 1 (Fund 28) Funding:**

**Total Income:** \$213,892.62

**Expenses:** \$186,804.98

**Net Income:** \$27,087.64

**Cash Balance at the end of July:** \$97,881.87

**Sub Rd District 1 of Rd District 3 Ward 1 Fund (29) Funding:**

**Total Income:** \$117,419.20

**Expenses:** \$109,249.02

**Net Income:** \$8,170.18

**Cash Balance at the end of July:** \$59,281.13

**Sub Rd 1 of Rd 11A Fund (42)**

**Total Income:** \$287,766.76

**Expense:** \$90,501.12

**Net Income:** \$197,265.64

**Cash Balance at the end of July:** \$346,876.92

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Jerry Red Jr. to accept the Parish President & Finance Report.

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

**Motion forwarded.**

5. Forward all applications received 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 Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021** all applications received 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., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

**Motion forwarded.**

6. Forward all applications received 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).

Councilman Jerry Jed Jr. asked Council Clerk Sherell Jordan, “How many applications do you currently have.” Council Clerk Sherell Jordan responded, “I have received four applications.”

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021** all applications received for one appointments 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., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

**Motion forwarded.**

7. Discuss the repair cost for Grant Road. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “At this time I would like to ask the committee to allow Mr. Duplechain to contact two service contractors that performed some work on Grant Road without any permit, they went in put some matting and some towers but destroyed part of that road. One of the companies have stated they are willing to pay a portion of the cost to fix the road. We going to ask Mr. Duplechain without naming the companies that he pursue these people give them the cost estimate and try to retrieve our money to repair that road.” Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “I will contact the two entities that damage the road, a lawsuit may be required, so a resolution will be provided at the full council meeting for the council to pass two weeks from now.”

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor seconded by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier, to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021** a

resolution authorizing a lawsuit to be filed against two companies that damaged Grant Road.

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

**Motion forwarded.**

8. Is it possible to have a Phase Six of the Smooth Ride Home, since we received more money from taxes. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Bellard I remember you stated you would meet with us in certain little groups and for us to come up with roads that we feel that need some attention in our areas.” Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Phase 6 won’t happen until next year if we do a Phase 6 next year just depends on how much money comes in, I would like to finish with Phase 5 and Phase 5 should be over bid by \$300,000 but I don’t want to commit to anything until we know for sure. We can plan for it but I would like to have a number set a side on what we will look at. Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin asked Amanda Cain for a fund balance. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “She left but the fund balance is about \$400,000 over and above what needs to be done in Phase 5 right now.”

9. Discuss a Resolution proposing supporting the flood mitigation team for the Teche/Vermillion/Courtableau Watershed. (Councilman Harold Taylor).

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “It will not require a resolution at this time. Seven of the Parish Presidents throughout the watershed signed on to ask the Colonel Murphy with US Corps of Engineers to lower the basin prior to the storm. In addition to that, we had Congressman Higgins and Congressman Letlow that signed a letter asking to do it and denied the letter although they turned the pumps off in the Teche-Vermillion fresh water district and lowered it a foot and a half. We were asking for two and a half feet but as it turned out we missed the bullet on this storm. The next step is to get the Corp of Engineers to update the operation and maintenance manual that have not been updated in 70 years. Mr. Bellard has agreed to host the meeting of these Parish Presidents to get everyone up to date on the plan and have dealt with several over the past week and they admit they don’t understand the system. We will meet in the upcoming weeks to explain. *Councilman Harold Taylor withdrew his motion of a Resolution for support for the Teche/Vermillion/Courtableau Watershed at this time.*

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

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “After a road is done in a phase who goes back and inspect the road.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard, “Our engineering firm does the inspection and test. They take a core sample to make sure it meets the requirements.

11. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to adjourn the Administrative Finance Committee Meeting.

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

**Motion carried.**

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